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“As teachers, you must not just be teachers of the classroom, but teach values to students by being their trustworthy friend, reliable guide and excellent role model.”

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
- Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami
inaugurated the newly formed Tenkasi District at a function held at Tenkasi on 22.11.2019.

Newly formed Tenkasi District inaugurated

Hon'ble Chief Minister raps Opposition for lies, outlines great gains of good governance

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** after inaugurating the newly formed Tenkasi District and completed scheme works, laying the foundation for new scheme works and distributing Government welfare assistance at a function held at Tenkasi on 22.11.2019 *(English Translation)*.

My prostrations to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Elders of Tenkasi, where the gentle fragrance of Tamil wafts like the southern breeze,

Womenfolk here whose two eyes are courage and righteousness,

The zestful youth who have gathered here like the gushing waters of the Courtallam falls…

At the outset, I offer my respects to all of you.

Fulfilling the 33-year-old demand of people here, the Tenkasi District has been born today by bifurcating Tirunelveli District. I am extremely happy to inaugurate this new District today.

Today is an important day in the history of Tenkasi. The dream of generations of people has materialized today. I am extremely happy to see you all on this happy occasion.

"This country does not lack in any resources" – sang our Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar. In keeping with this line, Tenkasi District has a variety of resources like mountains, forests, water, crops, Tamil wealth and the richness of history. Hon'ble Amma's Government is proud and happy to have created this gem of a District with three types of landscape - 'kurinji', 'mullai' and 'marudham'.

Hon'ble Amma's Government keeps in mind the wishes and needs of people, gives priority to them and implements them diligently. I am proud to mention here that like Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, Hon'ble Amma's Government that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Amma, also makes announcements in Tamil Nadu Legislature that respect the sentiments of people and implements them. "It is imperative that the local body administration has a knowledge of the feelings of the downtrodden", said Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Hon'ble Amma's Government proposes to conduct the local bodies election soon. The State Election Commission has started the election works in earnest. There is no connection between the conduct of the local bodies' election and the creation of new Districts. I wish to state at this hour that the local bodies' election will be conducted by the State Election Commission on the basis of the wards newly re-delineated. The Election Commission has also issued statements regarding this several times. The Commission is visiting many Districts, meeting the heads of District administration and is offering suggestions. But some are placing hurdles. Whatever the impediments, the State Election commission has started works for the conduct of the local bodies election speedily.

Tirunelveli District came into existence during the British rule. After Independence, Ponmanachemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. carved Thoothukudi District out of Tirunelveli District during his reign in 1986. Following this, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma too created many new Districts. As respected Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister mentioned, both Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma created various new Districts and made the State a model for efficient administration. I am proud to say that this has been achieved by the AIADMK Government.

During my visit to Tenkasi in July last to participate in a function, I stated that the long-pending demand of a cross-section of people for Tenkasi District was under the State Government's consideration. On July 18, I announced in the Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 that a new District with Tenkasi as headquarters would be created. I am proud to participate in this historic function got up to usher in the new Tenkasi District as per that announcement.

Tenkasi District is located at the foothills of the Western Ghats, known for its exuberant beauty endowed by Nature. The nearness of the Courtallam Falls has made it a tourist town. This place is known for the monsoon drizzle. This drizzle is also called 'Saaral Mazhai' and the Tamil Nadu Government is holding a 'Saaral vizha' every year by way of celebrating it.

This western ghats are called in this region as 'Podhigai Malai'. I am reminded of an episode

in the Ramayana while narrating the greatness of ‘Podhigai Malai’, Ramar bids Hanuman to go and find the place where Sita is kept. While advising Hanuman, Ramar cautions him not to pass through Podhigai Malai while going to Lanka as there is a person there, who will conquer him. Shocked, Hanuman asks who such a powerful man is. “It is Agathiyar who is on the slopes of Podhigai Malai, and is always singing. Fascinated by that music, if you stay back there, who is to find out where Sita is ?” asks Ramar. Podhigai Malai has such a hoary history and greatness. The Tenkasi District, inaugurated today, has such musical vibrations too.

Once upon a time, Lord Siva appeared in the dream of Parakrama Pandian, the ruler of the region surrounding a Shenbaga tree grove, and bade him to create a city comparable to Kasi City in the North so as to facilitate devotees in the South unable to trek to Kasi, to receive his grace here itself. As per the command, the temple constructed by Parakrama Pandian is the Tenkasi temple. The town also came to be known by the temple’s name.

Goddess Gomathi Amman undertook a penance to make known to the world that Lord Hari and Lord Siva are one and the same. Pleased with Mother’s penance, Lord Siva appeared as Sankaranarayanar at Sankarankovil. This event is celebrated every year as ‘Aadi thapasu’ at Sankarankovil.

The Sengottai region of this District was merged into Tamil Nadu after many agitations. By way of recalling all the great people who were in the forefront of those agitations, Hon’ble Amma’s Government, I wish to particularly mention it here, celebrated in a grand manner November 1 as ‘Tamil Nadu Day’.

The Grand Old man of Tamil language Dr.U.Ve.Swaminatha Iyer, who wished to praise Veerakeralampudur described as the place of Oottrumalai Jameen that gave shelter to poets who protected Tamil.

Nellai District’s extensive landscape is forcing people to travel for about one-and-a-half hours to reach its headquarters Tirunelveli for getting their basic amenities. As visiting the collectorate is unavoidable, this travel inflicts on them both monetary and time loss. Hence, this Tenkasi District has been created, considering their interests and by way of fulfilling their 33-year-old demand. I wish to mention a few salient features of this District.

- Tenkasi City will be the headquarters of this District.
- This District’s area is 2,916.13 sq. km.
- Population is 14,07,627.
- Revenue divisions of this District are Tenkasi and Sankarankovil. Sankarankovil Division is a newly created one. The District has 8 Taluks – Tenkasi, Sengottai, Kadayanallur, Sivagiri, Veerakeralampudur, Sankarankovil, Thiruvengadam and Alangulam; 30 Firkas and 251 Revenue Villages.
- As for local administration, this District has 5 Municipalities – Kadayanallur, Puliangudi, Sankarankovil, Sengottai

and Tenkasi, 10 Panchayat Unions including Kadayam and Kadayanallur, 224 Village Panchayats in them and 18 Town Panchayats inclusive of Courtallam and Sivagiri.

- There are 5 Assembly constituencies – a part of Sankarankovil assembly constituency, Vasudevanallur, Kadayanallur, Tenkasi and a part of Alangulam constituency.
- I am happy to mention that this District has been created with Town Panchayats, Municipalities, Panchayats, Panchayat Unions, Taluks and Divisions.
- Thirikooda Rasappa Kavirayar, author of the famous Kutrala Kuravanji, Rasikamani T.K.C., Thyagi Sattanatha Karayalar and Veeran Vanchinathan have all honoured this District by their birth.
- In the history of our freedom struggle, among the important palayakarars, Veeran Poolithevan and Thalapathi Ondiveeran were at the forefront. This District yielded them.

Through this event, I wish to convey the happy news that administrative orders have been issued for the scheme to divert, in the interests of farmers, the flood waters of Ramanadhi to the ayacuts of Jambunadhi in the Taluks of Tenkasi and Alangulam and that land acquisition works are in progress under the scheme.

- Hon'ble Amma's Government is making efforts continuously in respect of Shenbagavalli anaicut and restoration of Kanya madhagu canal. I am happy to state that I visited Kerala, met the Kerala Chief Minister and am engaged in finding solutions for water-sharing problems. As I was reaching the dais, an executive of a farmers' association asked me to solve the Shenbagavalli anaicut problem. I wish to remind you that our Government is trying to solve all the problems of farmers.

Like these welfare programmes, Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many schemes all over Tamil Nadu. I wish to particularly mention a few of them here.

In the agriculture sector, the State's foodgrain production has crossed the 100 lakh tonne mark for the sixth time in the last 8 years due to the implementation of many schemes by Hon'ble Amma's Government, and has created a record. When no State has passed any separate legislation for contract cultivation at the all-India level, the Tamil Nadu Government is unique in drafting an exclusive Act for it for the first time. This is a very great achievement for farmers.

"My aim is to facilitate higher education in colleges for more than 50 per cent of the student community", said Hon'ble Amma and started 65 colleges in Tamil Nadu. Toeing the line of Hon'ble Amma, our Government also started 12 Government Arts and Science Colleges and 5 Polytechnic Colleges and thus became an achiever. These steps have boosted the number of persons taking to higher education and we have achieved the honour of being the premier State in the country in having the highest number of students pursuing higher education. Nearly 49 per cent are doing their higher education

in Tamil Nadu. When Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took over the administration of Tamil Nadu as Chief Minister at the end of DMK's rule in 2011, she said she would give priority to higher education and created new colleges on that basis. This resulted, I am happy to state, in our Government getting the honour of being the premier State in the number of persons pursuing higher education.

Likewise, we conducted the second Global Investors Meet at Chennai on the lines of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. We attracted Rs. 3,00,431 crore industrial investment; signed 304 memoranda of understanding and created job opportunities for 10.50 lakh persons. This has been done by Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government. I am saying all these things because many in the Oppostion parties are spreading a canard that no new industry has come about in this regime and educated youth have no jobs. To put a full stop to this, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma conducted, for the first time, the Global Investors Meet at Chennai in 2015, and following it, the second Meet was conducted in January 2019 in Chennai. As a result of this, we have created an environment today in Tamil Nadu for industrial investors to successfully start industries in the State.

We have been successfully implementing the 'kudimaramathu' scheme -- an excellent scheme to facilitate agricultural operations through re-charging the ground water-- to the admiration of not only Tamil Nadu but also the entire country. Monsoon has blessed Tamil Nadu well this time. On my journey en route, I saw all lakes and tanks filled up to the brim. This is what Ponmanachemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma dreamt of and which we are witnessing today. This is made possible through the launching of the excellent scheme -- water management scheme – and the 'kudimaramathu' scheme under which lakes, tanks, ooranis and ponds in villages were dredged, enabling the conservation of monsoon rain water without wasting even a drop. Our Government has these achievements. In the first phase, we allotted Rs.100 crore for the 'kudimaramathu' scheme in 2016-2017; Rs.328 crore in 2017-2018 and about Rs.500 crore in 2018-2019. Most of these works have been completed. The left out lakes will be taken up in the coming days, needed funds will be allotted and all lakes, tanks, ponds and ooranis in Tamil Nadu will be dredged.

Even as life is to man, water is very important for farmers and people. So, it is our prime duty to conserve water. That is our goal and we are victoriously marching ahead on this front. Also, Amma's Government is the only Government that has allotted Rs.1,250 crore for de-silting all the ooranis, tanks and ponds in Panchayat Unions. The de-silting of lakes in Panchayat Unions helps storage of water in a greater measure, making available water for agricultural purposes and drinking water needs. I am proud to state that the only Government that has implemented 'kudimaramathu' scheme is the AIADMK Government.

Amma's Government is the only Government that had distributed Rs.1,000 each

to all family card holders last year to help them celebrate the Tamil festival 'Pongal' in a grand manner. In this too, we are the ones who have achieved. Some who could not digest this, went to court but the judges gave a good verdict and declined to stop what was being given to the poor. People celebrated the Pongal festival that year in a grand manner.

Soil fertility has gone down at present. Not only that – heaps of 'one time use' plastic articles are seen in many places. To change these conditions, Amma's Government banned the use of 'single use' plastic goods and implemented it. Now, the Prime Minister of India also has said the 'one time use' plastic articles should be banned throughout India and advised people not to use them. The Kerala Chief Minister has notified that such plastic products would be banned in Kerala State. I wish to state that Tamil Nadu has become a model State to the rest of India in this. I request you to go the whole hog in following this ban.

Amma's Government is the only Government that has issued orders in 368 of the 453 announcements made in the Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 in the three years – 2017-2018 to 2019-2020 – covering various welfare programmes. We are executing all the announcements made under Rule 110 so that people can derive benefits from these new schemes. The Leader of the Opposition Thiru. Stalin asks wherever he goes, what has happened to the announcements made under Rule 110 - whether it be during the rule of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma or in the 3 years since I assumed office as Chief Minister. By way of elucidation and for making things clear to the people, I share this information with you. Of the 453 announcements I made, schemes for 88 have been implemented fully; for 280, scheme works are about to be completed largely; for 74, preliminary works are under way; 9 are under Central Government's consideration; and 2 are pending in court due to litigation. But the leader of the opposition and members of opposition parties are deliberately mounting an erroneous campaign in Tamil Nadu. To stop this once and for all, I have given this explanation.

Most of the petitions I receive from women and the poor while on tour to different

Districts, pertain to old age pension, issue of house site patta and transfer of names in pattas. With the sole objective of finding a solution to all these, I announced the Chief Minister's Special Grievances Redressal scheme. As per that announcement, District Collectors and Ministers should visit villages, collect petitions and find solutions to the problems raised in them. On the basis of that direction, 9,72,216 petitions were received from all over Tamil Nadu. This is a historic achievement, a great step taken to solve the problems of poor and marginalized people. Hence, we consider it as a historic special event. Our Government has made an effort to resolve the problems that remained un-resolved for many years. Of the 9,72,216 petitions received through the scheme, solutions have been found for 5,11,186 eligible petitions and welfare assistance distributed. Steps are being taken on 23,538 petitions. I have directed District collectors to re-examine the rejected 4,37,491 petitions. I have also directed that welfare assistance should be disbursed to eligible petitioners, if any, from the rejected ones; and as regards rejected petitions, the petitioner should be given the reasons for the rejection.

My attention was drawn to the rules for grant of old age pension which stipulate that the value of property owned by the petitioner should not exceed Rs.50,000. I raised the eligibility criterion from Rs.50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh and directed District Collectors to implement it. So, I wish to state that our Government is functioning as one that reflects the aspirations of the poor and downtrodden. In Tenkasi District alone, 4,433 petitions were received through the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal Scheme. Of these, I am happy to state that 2,835 petitions were taken up for consideration and solutions found.

Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma urged the Centre to locate an AIIMS hospital in Tamil Nadu for the medical benefit of people in the Southern Districts. As a result of the total involvement of our Government that treads the path of Amma, to fulfill that aspiration, I was in touch with the Prime Minister – on many occasions reminding the Prime Minister on my personal meetings with him – the foundation for the hospital to come up at Thopur in Madurai District at a cost of Rs.1,500 crore was laid by the Prime Minister. Great achievements like these, I wish to point out, are being accomplished by Amma's Government.

Many people are asking what projects have you brought to Tamil Nadu from the Centre though you have contested the Parliament election in the company of the Bharatiya Janata Party. It is just 5 months since we allied with the BJP. The AIADMK Government is the only Government that has fetched, in one stroke, 6 medical colleges to Tamil Nadu at Tiruppur, The Nilgiris, Ramanathapuram, Dindigul, Namakkal and Virudhunagar, by exertion of pressure in these 5 months on the Prime Minister and on the Central Health Minister by me and the continuous follow-up action taken by our Health Minister Dr.Vijayabaskar. Through these 6 new medical colleges, the AIADMK Government – the only Government that has done it - has created a condition where

900 students can pursue medical education at the same time. We have also placed demands with the Prime Minister and the Union Health Minister to permit the starting of new medical colleges in the 3 Districts of Krishnagiri, Nagapattinam and Tiruvallur and allot funds for the same. The Central Government is examining that too. We are able to bring in such big schemes as we are in consonance with the Central Government.

But the Opposition is making a false campaign that the AIADMK Government has become a slave to the Central Government. They remained slaves when they shared power both at the Centre and in the State. What projects did they bring to Tamil Nadu? How much funds could they get? Nothing. Growth, power and posts revolved only around one family. But the AIADMK is not like that. We will support schemes beneficial to Tamil Nadu; the AIADMK movement and the AIADMK Government alone has the grit to oppose any scheme that is harmful to the people of Tamil Nadu. We are exhibiting this continuously. People are witnessing how we utilize the opportunities, create a conducive atmosphere with the Central Government and get approval from Prime Minister for many schemes and those schemes are getting implemented. I wish to point out, backed by data, the implementation of schemes to put an end to the wrong and false campaign being conducted by the members of opposition parties among the people.

An archaeological exhibition has been set up at the World Tamil Sangam (Madurai) to display the 6,720 artefacts, excavated by the Tamil Nadu Government Archaeological Department at Keezhadi Village. I wish to also state that a world class museum is proposed to be set up at a cost of Rs.12.21 crore at Konthagai Village, Thirupuvanam Taluk, Sivagangai District to display the articles found in the Keezhadi excavation. I wish to state that Amma's Government is the only Government that takes up things at the right moment and gets them done.

Today, I have declared open completed works costing Rs.12.15 crore, inclusive of the construction of a check dam across Nishapanadhi, Panaiyur village, Sankarankovil Taluk (PWD Department), and buildings constructed at a cost of Rs.28.68 crore inclusive of a higher secondary school, constructed at a cost of Rs.3.26 crore (School Education Department).

I have laid the foundation for 6 works to be executed at a cost of Rs.12.17 crore inclusive of an additional building for a constituent college of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (Rs.3.20 crore) –PWD Department.

I am happy to mention that I have inaugurated 47,655 works valued at Rs.34,559.12 crore from the date Hon'ble Amma's Government assumed office till now and laid the foundation stone for 7,909 works costing Rs.24,090.88 crore. I am enumerating all these things because the Opposition parties should know the schemes designed for Tamil Nadu from the time of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's rule, from the time I assumed office as Chief Minister till date, the funds allotted for them and the number of schemes implemented, and then speak.

Of the 47 announcements made at the centenary function of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. at Tirunelveli, 8 schemes have been completed, GOs have been issued for 36 works that are in various stages of progress and only 3 are in Government's consideration.

Likewise, Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing beneficial schemes in all Districts and you, the people who have experienced these benefits, are aware of them all. But some people are deprecating this Government constantly. I am reminded of a story in this connection.

There was a saint in a town. One day, a person approached him and asked him whether he would be pardoned for his sins. The compassionate saint said: "Tell me what sin you have committed; let's think of the pardoning later". "I have spoken scandalously about others; for a long time I have been doing this. Will I be pardoned?" asked the person. The saint asked him whether he had a pillow in his house. The person seeking pardon was confused over the query, for what could be the connection between the pardon he had sought and a pillow.

Anyhow, he brought a pillow from his house and the saint asked him to scatter the cotton inside the pillow in the wind. He did what he was told to do, went to the saint and said: "I have done the atonement as suggested by you; confer the pardon on me now", he said. "When did I say that your sins will be expiated if you scatter away the cotton? Collect all the scattered cotton and bring it – then only your sins will be forgiven", the saint told him. Shaken to the core, the man said: "How am I to collect the scattered cotton that has spread on all sides? It is an impossible task".

"Just as the scattered cotton cannot be collected back, so too the scandals you have spread cannot be got back by you. So, your sins cannot be pardoned at any time. You can go," the saint said, and dismissed him.

Like that man, there were scandal mongers passing scurrilous remarks against Hon'ble Amma and there are scandal mongers now doing the same in the case of Hon'ble Amma's Government. They have not done anything positive while in power or in the opposition except deprecating and scandalizing others. That is why, I wish to state at this hour, people have punished them through the just concluded by-election just as the saint refused to pardon the sinner.

Opposition party men are criticizing and pillorying this Government wherever they go, questioning its record of achievements, the schemes implemented for the people and the usefulness of this Government for the people. Through this event, I wish to list for such scandal mongers and false propagandists, the schemes implemented by Hon'ble Amma's Government in Tamil Nadu.

Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma launched the 'Gold for Thali' scheme to help the conduct of marriage of women from economically weaker sections. Through this scheme, Amma's Government has distributed 5,260.72 kilograms of gold, valued at Rs.1,500 crore to 11,45,910 beneficiaries from the year 2011-2012 to 2018-2019 financial year. This is a barometer of this Government's love and

affection for poor people. Under the marriage assistance scheme, about Rs.3,955 crore have been disbursed to beneficiaries. Along with the 'Gold for Thali', the total assistance given under the marriage assistance scheme is Rs.5,455 crore. If the poor have benefited through this scheme, what better scheme can there be than this? This scheme, born in Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's mind, is an excellent scheme even when considered at the national level. Amma's Government continues the scheme. In 2019-2020, we have distributed 838.36 kg of gold, valued at Rs.291.20 crore to 1,04,795 beneficiaries; under the marriage assistance scheme Rs.415.21 crore have been distributed.

In the manifesto for the 2016 legislative assembly elections, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma announced the distribution of two-wheeler vehicles at subsidized rates to working women, if elected to power. She said the subsidy would be Rs.20,000 per vehicle. Amma's Government that follows the path of Amma felt the subsidy was not enough and hiked it to Rs.25,000. Through this scheme, our Government distributed two-wheeler vehicles costing Rs. 362 crore to 1,54,592 working women and thus recorded an achievement.

It is our Government that has opened 254 Primary Health Centres for the poor to get appropriate treatment in their own villages. So too, 165 Primary Health Centres have been made into 30-bed upgraded Primary Health Centres.

In the last 7 years, the number of medical colleges opened was 6; Likewise, the hospitals at Sivagangai, Tiruvannamalai, Chennai Omandurar Government Estate, Karur, Coimbatore -ESI and Pudukkottai are of recent origin.

In the last 8 years, 2.38 lakh beneficiaries have received Amma Sanjeevi kits. Amma announced a wonderful scheme, Amma Baby Care Kit, containing 16 articles for ensuring a

healthy and good life even for neo-natal babies of poor parents. Through this scheme, 17.70 lakh beneficiaries have benefited. If the newborn children too are getting the benefits of Amma's welfare schemes, you should ponder, to what extent Amma's Government is addressing people's issues. Under the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Financial Assistance Scheme, we have given Rs.5,236.88 crore to 60.48 lakh pregnant women. This has resulted, I am proud to say, in Tamil Nadu realizing even now, the target to be achieved in the year 2030 in mother/infant mortality rate during delivery of babies.

In organ transplant surgery, Tamil Nadu continues to occupy the first place in India and won the award for it, for the fourth time.

In the agriculture sector, we continue to get the 'Krishi Karman' award. We have established a record in the distribution of goats and milch cows at no cost. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma brought this scheme for the economic development of rural people and it is being continued by our Government.

A subsidiary occupation of agriculturists is animal husbandry. By starting the Amma ambulance service for treating sick domestic animals, Tamil Nadu has become a pioneering State. It is Amma's Government that has created a condition where a phone call will fetch Amma ambulance to treat and cure sick cattle.

For the betterment of the education sector, 43,584 teachers have been newly appointed in the last 8 years. All the vacancies in teacher posts have been filled up. Two hundred and forty-eight primary schools have been newly started; 117 primary schools have been upgraded into middle schools, 1,079 middle schools into high schools, 604 high schools into higher secondary schools. This has pushed up the number of students pursuing higher education and has made Tamil Nadu the premier State in India.

Students from poor families in rural areas are generally intelligent and good. While laptop is essential for pursuing higher and excellent education, the economic condition of rural students hampers them from purchasing laptops. Hence, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma launched the distribution of laptops to students at no cost. The only Government that has distributed laptops worth Rs.6,857.52 crore to 48,54,134 students at no cost is Amma's Government. At global level, nowhere laptops are given like this at no cost.

The Opposition is spreading wrong news through newspapers and media that this Government is indulging in several tricks to get the local bodies election postponed. From the date local bodies election came into existence in Tamil Nadu till the year 1996, the practice of electing Municipal Corporation Mayor and chair persons of Municipalities and Town Panchayats was through the elected councillors. But when Thiru. Karunanidhi was Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the system of direct election to the post of Mayor and Chairpersons of municipalities and town panchayats was introduced to facilitate Thiru. Stalin becoming the Mayor of Chennai Corporation. It was the DMK that ushered in the system of direct election. Again, it is the DMK that had reversed it and brought back the old system in 2006. The Local Administration

Minister, then, was the present Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the DMK, Thiru. Stalin. On 31.08.2006, Thiru. Stalin, then Minister for Rural Development and Local Administration introduced a draft bill in the Legislative Assembly for indirect election of Mayor and chairperson of Municipality and Town Panchayat in the place of direct election. The Leader of Opposition who opposes indirect election today introduced that bill, then, for indirect election. He sought the passage of the bill in the Assembly on 31.08.2006, listing the practice of indirect election in Assam, Gujarat and many other States and stated further: "A dichotomy of sorts comes into play with the Mayor belonging to a party and majority councillors to another party, affecting people's basic problems from getting passed in the council. On the one hand, people's problems stagnate; on the other a situation has arisen where resolutions too could not be passed in toto; though elections were held in 2001 to the Municipalities of Villupuram and Virudhachalam, council meetings could not be held properly till date – August 2006 – in these two Municipalities; Considering all these matters, we are implementing this system," he said and sought the approval of the House. In 2019 also, Mayors are elected in cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai and Hyderabad through indirect election. I wish to point out here, Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's speech in the Assembly on 23.06.2016, intervening during the DMK MLA Ma. Subramaniam's speech on the draft bill for indirect election to Mayor's post in Municipal Corporation, introduced on the previous day – 22.06.2016. Hon'ble Amma said: "Hon'ble Speaker Sir, it is a State's right to take a policy decision and later to change it. In DMK's rule also, it has been done. For example, it is the DMK Government that signed the memorandum of understanding for the methane gas extraction scheme. Now they say they are opposing it. Is it not a change of policy? Like that, though we have taken a decision during our rule, a policy change has come about today". Thus, Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had explained it clearly in the Assembly even then. Amma cited only the methane instance. But we can go on listing their dual stance – signing (consenting) while sharing power at the Centre and opposing it here. They gave consent at the Centre to anti-people policies decisions like methane, natural gas extraction, NEET examination, ban on Jallikattu and permission to Nutrino research but stage a drama here as if they oppose them in the belief that people have forgotten their earlier stand. As far as we are concerned we want local bodies election. The State Election commission has to conduct it. The Commission has clearly mentioned it in the Supreme court. As for the AIADMK Government, there is no second opinion on the conduct of election decisively.

They also say that we are bringing this change out of fear of defeat. If it were so, was it right when you brought the change then? Thiru. Stalin's statement is like the rural adage that "it is a mud pot if the mother-in-law breaks it; a golden pot if it is broken by the daughter-in-law". If they bring the change, it is a correct scheme; if AIADMK Government brings it, it is a wrong scheme. This is what they say. So,

it is Thiru.Stalin who is trying to stall the local bodies election by spreading wrong and false news. This will not cut ice. I wish to state that the State Election Commission will conduct this election on the advice given by the Supreme Court.

I wish to mention some of the achievements of Amma's Government in Tirunelveli District:

New 'Ninaivu Illam' have been set up by Tamil Nadu Government for Veeravanchinathan and Maaveeran Ondiveeran. Under 'Amrit' scheme, an underground sewer is being laid in Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation at a cost of Rs.289 crore.

You have requested construction of check dams at various places. I will mention a few that are under Government's consideration:

The one across Thamirabarani river near Thirupudaimaruthur Village, Ambasamudram Taluk at a cost of Rs.32 crore; another across Thamirabarani river near Rajavallipuram Village, Tirunelveli Taluk at a cost of Rs. 33 crore; and yet another across Thamirabarani river near Thiruvannanathapuram Village, Palayamkottai Taluk at a cost of Rs.30 crore – all in Tirunelveli District.

Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government is taking steps to construct checkdams at various places to store the entire monsoon rain water for rising the ground water table. As a part of it, Government is considering check dams across Thamirabarani river at 3 places.

The whole quantum of water from Pazhayar river near Soolancode Village, Kanniyakumari District drains into the sea as surplus water. The tail-end areas of Radhapuram canal and Thovalai canal do not get enough water. In the Radhapuram canal area, water scarcity is high, both for agriculture and drinking water purposes. The surplus water that drains into the sea from the last anaicut of Pazhayar river is of the order of 922 million cubic ft. of water. A proposed scheme envisages the pumping 645 million cubic ft. of this surplus water into Radhapuram canal, to enrich the ground water table in the canal area, provide direct irrigation to the canal's ayacut of 15,980 acres and indirect irrigation to another 1,020 acres besides giving irrigation facility to 52 tanks. The water will be pumped through 2 electric motors. Solar power will meet the electricity needs of the scheme. For the implementation of this scheme, no land acquisition is needed. The cost for the execution of this scheme is about Rs.170 crore.

The scheme to link Thamirabarani-Karumeniyaru-Nambiyaru rivers got delayed due to land acquisition problems. About 94 works in stage I and stage II have been completed. Before the end of the year 2020, the I and II stages will be completed. Forty-eight works in stage III have been completed. In stage IV works have been started and will be completed by December 2020. I wish to give you the happy news that the linking of Thamirabarani, Karumeniyaru and Nambiyaru rivers will be completed by the year 2020. The cost of the scheme is Rs.561.88 crore and it is totally State-funded. I am happy to state that our Government will create a condition through this scheme, to grow crops in 23,040

hectares of land – 13,481 hectares in 32 villages in Tirunelveli District and 9,559 hectares in 18 villages in Thoothukudi District.

I am extremely happy to make some announcements for the development of the newly created Tenkasi District.

A co-educational Government Arts and Science College will be set up at a cost of Rs.8.60 crore at Sankarankovil ; a Government Arts and Science College for women will be set up at Alangulam at a cost of Rs.9.15 crore; to develop the livelihood of farmers through conserving rain water and using it for irrigation, renovation works in 395 irrigation structures at Chitharu sub-basin in Tenkasi District are being carried out at a cost of Rs.22.65 crore. This will benefit 6,000 hectares of agricultural lands in the Panchayat Unions of Tenkasi, Kadayanallur, Sengottai, Alangulam, Keezhpavur and Melaneelithanallur. This scheme will be put to use fully shortly.

Across Kottamalaiyaru in Chinthamani Village, Kadayanallur Taluk, a check dam will be constructed at a cost of Rs.1.71 crore; a barrage will be constructed at a cost of Rs.1.50 crore and a scheme to supply water to Vannaneri, Sakalaneri and Malaiyadikurichi tanks will be taken up; and another barrage at a cost of Rs.2.50 crore to supply water to Sirukulam and other dependent tanks in Darukapuram.

Survey works will be taken up for laying a new canal from Kasikkuvaithan supply canal that branches off from Veeranam Periya kulam, Veerakeralampudur Taluk to Kavalakurichi Periyakulam.

A scheme to construct an anaicut across Ullaru, Rayagiri Village at a cost of Rs.1.65 crore for supplying water to Melakarisal tank and another scheme to construct an anaicut across Ullaru in Thenmalai Village at a cost of Rs.2 crore to supply water to Kannachembal tank will be implemented. Both are in Sivagiri Taluk.

Besides these, the 18.39 million litres per day (MLD) combined water supply scheme (Rs.147 crore) for the Town Panchayats of Sankarankovil, Puliyangudi and Thiruvengadam, the 12.43 MLD combined water supply scheme (Rs.31.32 crore) for 147 rural apartments in the Panchayat Unions of Alangulam and Sankarankovil and the 9.27 MLD combined water supply scheme (Rs.47 crore) for 163 rural apartments in Keezhpavur Town Panchayat and in the Panchayat Unions of Pappakudi, Kadayam and Keezhpavur are being executed speedily for meeting the drinking water needs of the people of this District in a more enhanced way. We are implementing many schemes. The recently concluded Nanguneri and Vikravandi Assembly by-elections have testified that administration in Tamil Nadu is excellent. To those who say that no good has accrued to people under this rule, I wish to state that this Assembly election have certified that the present rule is one of excellence and one that does good to the people. I convey my appreciation and good wishes to all the good hearts who have made good arrangements for this event.

Nandri! Vanakkam.

Hon'ble Chief Minister distributes Pongal gift hampers to beneficiaries

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 29.11.2019, inaugurated the Pongal Gift Scheme to rice ration cardholders and distribution of sarees and dhotis at no cost to 1.67 crore beneficiaries.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister formally inaugurated the distribution by handing over the Pongal gift hampers and dhotis and sarees to 16 beneficiaries.

The Pongal gift hamper has 1 kg of raw rice, 1 kg of sugar, two-foot long sugarcane, 20 grams each of cashew nut and dry grapes, 5 grams of cardamom and cash of Rs.1,000.

Pongal Festival is celebrated with enthusiasm by Tamils all over the world. To enable the Tamils to celebrate the Pongal Festival in a grand manner, the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the inaugural function of the new District Kallakurichi on 26.11.2019 announced that the Tamil Nadu Government, like last year, will give a Pongal Gift to all rice ration cardholders.

As per the announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the distribution of Pongal Gift to Rice Ration Cardholders at the Secretariat by handing over the Gift to 16 beneficiaries as a token. For this scheme, the Tamil Nadu Government has allotted Rs.2,363.13 crore.

Distribution of dhotis and sarees at no cost was launched in 1983 by the then Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.M.G.R. to provide continuous employment throughout the year for handloom weavers.

As per the announcement, every year in connection with the Tamilar Festival, Thai Pongal, dhotis and sarees at no cost are being distributed. Through this scheme, not only the poor and downtrodden are benefited, but also handloom and power-loom weavers get employment throughout the year.

To inaugurate the distribution of 1.67 crore free sarees and dhotis worth Rs.484.25 crore for 2020, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over dhotis and sarees to 16 beneficiaries at the Secretariat, as a token. ■

Hon’ble Chief Minister thanks Hon’ble Prime Minister for historic sanction of 9 medical colleges in a year

Statement of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on 27.11.2019, thanking the Hon’ble Prime Minister for sanctioning 3 more new Government Medical Colleges for Tamil Nadu (English Translation).

I placed a demand before the Hon’ble Prime Minister requesting Central Government’s permission and allotment of Central Government funds for 3 medical colleges in Krishnagiri, Tiruvallur and Nagapattinam Districts, where at present there is no medical college. The Tamil Nadu Government also sent its proposal for consideration to the Central Government immediately.

Accepting my demand, the Central Government (27.11.2019) issued orders for starting 3 new Government Medical colleges in Krishnagiri, Tiruvallur and Nagapattinam Districts.

Already sanction for 6 new Government medical colleges had been obtained by the State Government on 23.10.2019 and now the permission has been received for 3 more Government medical colleges for the State. It is a historic record to get sanction for 9 new Government medical colleges in a year. The Central Government also has approved the estimate for Rs.2,925 crore and agreed to sanction Rs. 1,755 crore as its share. The Tamil Nadu Government on its part will allot Rs. 1,170 crore.

I thank the Hon’ble Prime Minister and the Central Government for giving this historic permission to start 9 new Government Medical Colleges in the State in a year.

Hon'ble Chief Minister greets the Press

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on the occasion of National Press Day - 15.11.2019 *(English Translation)*.

Every year, National Press Day is observed on November 16 to honour the services of the Print and Visual Media. On this happy day, I extend my greetings to employees working in Newspapers and Television channels.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who was very much concerned about the welfare of Journalists, increased the pension for them from Rs.8,000 to Rs.10,000 and the family pension from Rs.4,750 to Rs.5,000. The ceilings of gratuity and annual income during their service has been raised from Rs.2 lakh to Rs.3 lakh. Medical assistance is given for Journalists who suffer from serious diseases during their service from the Journalists Welfare Fund and the assistance has been increased from Rs.50,000 to 1 lakh.

Houses are allotted for journalists in the Tamil Nadu Housing Board for low rent and the journalists working in the Districts and TV Journalists are given house-site pattas at a concessional rate. Journalists' pension, family pension and financial assistance from the Journalists Welfare Board have been extended to Journalists belonging to Tamil Nadu working in New Delhi.

I congratulate the journalists working in the print and visual media on this occasion, as they are doing the great job of taking the various welfare schemes implemented by the Tamil Nadu Government to the people through their medium.

Once again, I congratulate the journalists on my own behalf and on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, which is functioning on the lines of the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

New concept of non-motorised transport takes shape

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens T.Nagar Pedestrian Plaza

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open on 13.11.2019 two completed schemes, costing Rs. 58.97 crore, under the Smart City Scheme of the Greater Chennai Corporation.

While the Pedestrian Plaza Complex at T. Nagar in Kodambakkam Division under Chennai Corporation, was constructed at a cost of Rs. 39.86 crore, 23 Smart Roads were laid at a cost of Rs. 19.11 crore.

Thanks to the efforts taken by the Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, 11 cities in the State, namely Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Thanjavur, Salem, Vellore, Tiruppur, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Tiruchirappalli and Erode have been selected for infrastructure development under the Smart City scheme.

Under the scheme, every Smart City has been sanctioned Rs. 500 crore by the Central Government and an equal contribution by the

State Government. So far, Rs. 390 crore has been received for Chennai city – Rs. 190 crore from the Central Government and Rs.200 crore from the State Government.

Under the Smart City Scheme, 41 schemes, costing Rs. 916.26 crore, have been permitted for the Greater Chennai Corporation. So far, under the Chennai Smart City Schemes, 18 schemes have been completed at a cost of Rs. 130.94 crore. Another 17 schemes, valued at Rs. 471.12 crore are under various stages of implementation. Contracts for 2 Schemes, costing Rs. 153.55 crore, are under scrutiny. Tenders have been floated for 1 scheme valued at Rs. 29.85 crore. A detailed project report is being prepared for 3 schemes worth Rs.131 crore.

On an average, one third of the travel of urban commuters is by foot. Most of the commuters begin and end their bus travel by

foot only. Taking this into consideration and to make the city the first in the country, the Greater Chennai Corporation decided to follow the Non-Motorized Transport Policy in the year 2014. In continuation of this, it has been decided to lay roads to a length of 100 km which are to be made pedestrian friendly in the city.

Based on this policy, under the Chennai Smart City Scheme, T.Nagar has been selected for Area Based Development, where vehicles with less emission are encouraged by developing Pedestrian Plaza at a cost of Rs. 39.86 crore and to lay 23 Smart Roads at a cost of Rs.19.11 crore.

Under the Smart City scheme, the work for the pedestrian plaza to a length of 1,450 metres from Thyagaraya Road in Thyagaraya Nagar to Anna Salai was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Special Implementation Scheme on 07.05.2018.

The aim is to change the concept that roads are meant for vehicular movement alone and developing them as a mode of travel of international standards by pedestrians. The aim is for roads that are safe, user friendly and of independent usage for all people in society, including elderly people, children, women and differently abled persons.

Instead of developing the surface (upper) portion of the roads, the infrastructure underneath the roads such as rain water drainage, power and telephone infrastructure, drinking water distribution pipes, underground drainage system are also taken care of in designing the new roads. Once the roads are laid, then there would be no need to undertake infrastructure works for the next 30 years. These roads will be a model for India's Road Infrastructure.

Thyagaraya Nagar Pedestrian Plaza:

The Pedestrian Plaza, which is set up from Thyagaraya Nagar to Anna Salai for about 1,450 metre at a cost of Rs. 39.86 crore, has been designed in such a manner that commuters, especially Senior Citizens, Children, Pedestrians and Differently- abled persons have a hassle-free walking continuously for a long distance. With this motive, children play area, rest benches for the public, illuminated lamps at required places, wall paintings and road crossings at convenient points have been provided, besides uniform Digital Controller (DC) Boxes by the Service Department.

In the Thyagaraya Nagar Pedestrian Plaza, convenient seats and bright street lights have been provided to enable Senior Citizens, differently-abled people, Children and members of the common public to purchase

goods peacefully and conveniently without any difficulty. It has been planned to organize cultural shows in this pedestrian plaza like in New York Times Square and other top cities of the world. For the convenience of Senior Citizens and Differently abled persons, battery cars will be operated.

23 Smart Roads in Thyagaraya Nagar:

Based on the Non-Motorized Transport Policy, to encourage safe travel movement by pedestrians, 23 Roads in Thyagaraya Nagar have been selected and redesigned. Under the movement, works relating to platforms that are pedestrian- friendly, speed breakers in roads, road signs using thermo plastic colours, rain-water harvesting infrastructure and change of Junction boxes for free movement of pedestrians were undertaken.

Redesigned Roads :

No.	Name of the Division or Areas - Name of the Roads.
1.	10/34 Parangusapuram Street
2.	10/134 Dr.Gopal Menon Street
3.	10/134 ACC Nagar 2nd Street
4.	10/135 Jaisankar Street
5.	10/136 Ramanujam Street
6.	10/136 Kannadasan Street
7.	10/ 136 Guild Street
8.	10/136 Sarojini Street
9.	10/136 Maharajapuram Santhanam Road
10.	10/136 Arulambal Street
11.	10/136 Jagadambal Street
12.	10/136 Lodhikhan I, II, III and IV Streets
13.	10/136 Raman Street
14.	10/136 Pinjala Subramaniam Street
15.	10/136 Kannadasan Street
16.	10/136 Govindu Street
17.	10/136 Krishna Street
18.	10/141 Muthurangan Street
19.	10/141 C.I.T.Nagar 5th Main Road
20.	10/141 C.I.T Nagar Model House Salai
21.	10/141 C.I.T.Nagar Canal Road
22.	10/141 Moopparappan Street
23.	10/141 Sadullah Street

In the next phase, under the Complete Streets Programme, it has been programmed to redesign roads over a length of 100 km. Under the programme, other roads will be developed as in Pondy Bazar. This programme will improve the living standards of Chennai people.

Under the Smart City Scheme about 1,700 km length of roads in main cities in the State namely Madurai, Tiruchi, Salem, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Thanjavur, Erode and Tiruppur will be converted by the Tamil Nadu Government into Complete Streets and a draft pre-implementation report has been prepared in this regard.

Under the scheme, just like in Pondy Bazar, the selected roads in the smart cities will be redesigned in keeping with contemporary ideas. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens Manimandapam at Manjakuppam in Cuddalore

'Thiru. Ramasamy Padaiyatchiyar's life will serve as inspiration for selfless service'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** after declaring open Thiru. Ramasamy Padayatchiyar Memorial at Manjakuppam, Cuddalore District on 25.11.2019 - *(English Translation)*.

My obeisance to Goddess Hon'ble Amma.

At the outset, my respects to all those participating and gracing this pleasant function.

Thiru. Ramasamy Padayatchiyar was a legend even in his lifetime and I am extremely happy to erect a memorial to him and participate in the function to declare it open.

If India is growing fast, we should not forget that this has been made possible by the sacrifices of many freedom fighters. Thiru. Ramasamy Padayatchiyar is one such great freedom fighter.

Respected Thiru.S.S.Ramasamy Padayatchiyar was born on September 16, 1918. He joined the freedom struggle and toiled for the country's freedom. After Independence, he formed the Tamil Nadu Toilers Party in 1952. In the election to the Assembly in that year, his party won 19 seats; it also won 4 seats in the Lok Sabha election.

Thiru.Ramasamy Padayatchiyar took great interest in the welfare and development of the oppressed and backward class people. He was a Minister in Perunthalaivar Kamarajar's Government in the years 1954 to 1957. He also won the Parliament election in 1980 and 1984.

Thiru. Ramasamy Padayatchiyar used his talent to speak with great presence of mind and humour but at the same time express his views forcefully, for the lofty ideal of the poor and marginalized people getting their rights in education and job opportunities, so that the advance in life. He would speak courageously

without compromising his self respect at any time. In tune with the Thirukural couplet –

'Solludhal yaarkkum eliya ariyavaam

solliya vannam seyal"

(It is easy to say but rare to do as stated) – Thiru. Ramasamy Padayatchiyar accomplished what he stated; he spoke only that which could be achieved.

A person of simplicity who could be accessed at any time, Thiru.Ramasamy Padayatchiyar was a people's leader. I wish to narrate an event about him.

Once, Thiru. Ramasamy Padayatchiyar returned home extremely tired after a strenuous week-long tour. At that point, a voice seeking a meeting with him was heard outside. Hearing the voice, his assistant came out and chided the man saying, "Ayya is very tired; don't trouble him. Come in the morning". Padayatchiyar heard the conversation from inside. Immediately, he came out hurriedly, invited the caller inside, had him seated, heard him patiently and sent him stating he would do whatever was possible.

He saw the caller going back happily and then called his assistant. "Do you have any sense? He is not of this place and has come to see me. If he has to meet me tomorrow did you consider how much he would have to spend for lodging and boarding tonight. Would he have enough money for that?" he asked.

"In the satisfaction that he has met me now, he will reach his home however late it be. Don't repeat this mistake hereafter. You should inform me when a visitor wants to meet me, whatever be the time ", he told his assistant.

From this episode we can understand about the attitude of Thiru.Ramasamy Padayatchiyar to people.

Respected Padayatchiyar was a great man who was always sought to resolve the problems of people.

Respected Ramasamy Padayatchiyar did many beneficial things for people from his own funds. I shall mention a few of them here.

✶ He donated his lands for laying the railway line in Cuddalore.

✶ He donated his lands for setting up the Cuddalore bus stand, hospital and the Industrial Training Institute.

✶ Thiru. Ramasamy Padayatchiyar's heirs have surpassed him and have donated their lands worth Rs.20 crore as there is no proper

approach road to the bus stand. This is truly inspiring.

- To increase job opportunities for the youths of the Vanniyar community, he created the scheme of 'Single Teacher job'. As per that scheme, if there were 20 students in a Village but still they could not go to school, elementary school lessons should be taught in the Panchayat building itself and the Panchayat administration should pay the salary of those teachers. Many of the students who studied in this single teacher schools, later became responsible officers in many posts.

By way of honouring his contributions to society, I announced in the Assembly on 29.06.2018 that the birth anniversary of Thiru.Ramasamy Padayatchiyar would be celebrated as a Government function. Accordingly, the Government is celebrating his birth anniversary annually.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar sang: 'Thyaagigalaana thalaivargalaale, suthanthiram enbadhai adainthome! Oru silar mattum anubavikkaamal palarrukkum payanthara seivome! Oorukku uzhaichale, ezhai urimaiyai madhichale perumaigal thedi varum" ('We got independence due to leaders who were tyagis; let us make it useful for many without confining it to a few. Honour will come searching if one works for society and respects the rights of the poor'). In consonance with this song, respected Ramasamy Padayatchiyar toiled for the country and the backward class people. By way of further honouring his work, his portrait was declared open in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 19.07.2019 by me.

In deference to the requests made by Hon'ble Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly and Parliament and scholars of the Vanniyar community, I announced at a function at Mettur on 19.07.2018 that the Government would construct a memorial in honour of Thiru. Ramasamy Padayatchiyar at his native District of Cuddalore and his life size statue would be installed in the mandapam. By way of implementing it, 1.5 acres of Government land was allotted in just 2 months for construction of the memorial at a cost of Rs.2.15 crore and I laid the foundation stone for it on 14.09.2018. Work on the Manimandapam was completed speedily and I am extremely happy to declare it open today.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R raised the reservation quota for backward classes from 31 to 50 per cent, increasing the reservation in Tamil Nadu to 69 per cent inclusive of that for Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes. Protector of social justice, Veeranganai Hon'ble Amma got Constitutional protection to 69 per cent reservation in Tamil Nadu by enacting a legislation in 1993 and got it included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. I wish to proudly state here that it is Hon'ble Amma's Government that raises the voice of opposition whenever social justice

comes under threat and takes appropriate steps to remove it.

I also wish to point out that the AIADMK Government does not stop with promises but implements them immediately. We have proved this several times. We have been trained by Hon'ble Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R and Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. As such, I am happy to state that we are functioning on the motto " What we say, we will carry out; we will surely carry out what we say".

I state very emphatically that Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and Hon'ble Amma's Government continue to work for making Tamil Nadu a model State by implementing innumerable schemes to all sections of people, inclusive of backward and most backward classes.

Respected Law Minister Thiru. C.V.Shanmugam stated that I had made the announcement (of putting up a portrait of respected Ramasamy Padayatchiyar in the Assembly) without any one asking for it. That is true. There are portraits of many persons in the Assembly. Whenever I saw those portraits, I felt the absence of a portrait for a leader of such a big community and concluded that a portrait of the leader of this big community should be there. I consulted respected Deputy Chief Minister, Ministers belonging to the Vanniyar community respected C.V.Shanmugam, Thiru. K.P.Anbalagan, respected Thiru.M.C.Sampath, Respected Thiru. Doraikannu, respected Thiru. K.C.Veeramani and many other members of the Assembly. This led to the opening of the life-size portrait of the leader. We have done it and thereby added glory to the people of the community.

Thiru. Ramasamy Padayatchiyar was a leader who fought for reservation, Independence and social justice. On your behalf, I extend my gratitude to God and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for getting an opportunity to declare open, at this time, the memorial with Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's blessings. Many people are born, they live and pass away. Only a few labour for society. Only when we identify those few and glorify them, the next generation will do good to the people. We have set up this manimandapam to glorify such leaders.

We have erected manimandapams and statues to freedom fighters, defenders of social justice and tyagis who had dedicated their lives for the sake of people, whether it be during the times of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R who put the AIADMK party on the seat of administration or the times of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma or during our rule after her demise. This Government continues that task to the extent of creating history. Respected elder Ayya Ramadoss, President of the Pattali Makkal Katchi, Respected Thiru. Anbumani Ramadoss, former Central Minister and now Rajya Sabha Member and Hon'ble Law Minister Respected C.V. Shanmugam placed some requests. They are under Government's consideration.

Giving the assurance that Amma's Government will definitely do countless good things to this community, I very happily declare open the memorial to the late leader Thiru. Ramasamy Padayatchiyar who lived and died for the country, its freedom, social justice and the people at large. Thanking all the good hearts who have assembled in great numbers in Cuddalore District and participated in this event, exemplary leaders seated on the dais, leaders of various organizations who have come here and the people of different communities, I take leave of you all.

Nandri! Vanakkam.

Hon'ble Chief Minister launches Kallakurichi District, distributes welfare assistance

Amma's Government 'has created history by carving out 5 new Districts in single year'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** after inaugurating the new Kallakurichi District, launching the completed scheme works, laying the foundation for new scheme works and distributing Government welfare assistance, at a function held at Kallakurichi on 26.11.2019 *(English Translation)*.

I prostrate before Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

At the outset, my respects to all those who have come to this pleasant function.

Conceding the long-standing demand – for about 50 years – of the Kallakurichi people to divide Villupuram District and create a new District with Kallakurichi as headquarters, Kallakurichi District has been formed today by dividing Villupuram District.

"Though Districts are formed for administrative convenience, the basis for that exercise is that Districts should grow and education and industry should flourish," said Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

Division of a District does not mean changing a few lines in Tamil Nadu's map. On the contrary, it means that a new chapter has begun in administrative reform; a service minded Government closely interacts with

people and takes action after understanding their needs. Recognizing the long standing demand of a section of people is not determined by mere income – expenditure calculations. It is respecting the sentiments of the people asking for a separate identity for themselves. New Districts are created only on the basis of honouring the people's views, administrative convenience and speedy disbursal of the benefits of Government welfare programmes to all sections of people even in the remotest areas. The credit of creating 5 new Districts in the same year on this basis and to facilitate easy redressal of people's problems goes to Hon'ble Amma's Government. There is no history of 5 Districts having been created in the same year. It is Amma's Government that has created this history.

To speeden up the development of the people of this region, Amma's Government, with Amma's blessings and your joyous responses, has created today the Kallakurichi District that includes parts of south and west region of the Villupuram District, as the 34th District of Tamil Nadu. My good wishes to the people of this new District.

Palar was the dividing line between North and South Arcot Districts. In 1993, Hon'ble Amma created the Villupuram District by dividing the South Arcot District. Today Hon'ble Amma's Government has created a new District with Kallakurichi as its headquarters from Villupuram District.

As a new District, Kallakurichi will get all the infrastructure facilities due to a District like Government office complex, District hospital and District offices for the various departments. This will facilitate easy access to Government offices by cutting short the time of travel to reach them. This will help the progress of both Kallakurichi District and its people.

This District has a hoary history of greatness. For example, some 2,000 years ago, there was a kingdom on the banks of South Pennai river, amidst Chera, Chola, Pandiya kingdoms. It was called Malayama Nadu on account of the numerous hills there. Pennaiyaru had made that country fertile. Kaari, a chieftain ruled the Malayama country with Tirukoilur as his capital. He became the leader, first to Mullur and Mullur mountain; later he became the king of Malai Nadu. As he was a learned person, he established many educational institutions in every town. He gave education to all without any gender bias. He was an expert in handling weapons also and became a strong chieftain. All the three kings – Chera, Chola and Pandya – sought his help in war whenever they needed it. His war tactics were greatly appreciated and it came to be known that victory rested on the side which Kaari supported. Besides education and heroism, Kaari was also known for his great munificence. He never treated the riches he received as gifts from the 3 monarchs for his help in wars. He considered the riches as that of the community. Such a great person was king Kaari who ruled from Tirukoilur.

Chinnasalem town is the main link that connects the northern and western Districts of Tamil Nadu. Many modern rice mills are located in Chinnasalem town panchayat. It is the main supplier of paddy harvesting machines

to Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala besides Tamil Nadu itself.

I wish to mention a few of the salient features of Kallakurichi District.

Kallakurichi municipality will be the headquarters of the new Kallakurichi District; its population is 13,70,281; it extends to an area of 3,520.37 sq.kms; Revenue Divisional offices will function from Kallakurichi and Tirukoilur; the District has 6 taluks – Kallakurichi, Sankarapuram, Chinnasalem, Tirukoilur, Ulundurpet and Kalvarayan Hills – 23 firkas and 558 revenue villages; it has 5 Assembly constituencies - (Part of) Tirukoilur, Kallakurichi, Sankarapuram, (part of) Ulundurpet and Rishivandiyam; has 9 panchayat unions inclusive of Kallakurichi and Chinnasalem, 7 town panchayats inclusive of Chinnasalem and Sankarapuram and 406 village panchayats.

The Kalvarayan Hills, full of Nature's splendor, is part of the Eastern Ghats. Along with Pachaimalai, Javadhu and Servarayan hills, they form the boundaries separating Cauvery river basin and the Palar river basin. The northern part of Kalvarayan Hills is called Chinna Kalavarayan Hills and the southern part as Peria Kalavarayan Hills. Manimuktha dam is at the confluence of the rivers Maniyaru and Muktha. Gomukhi river originates in this hill and Gomukhi dam is constructed across this river. A beautiful park is set up on a 15-acre area around Gomukhi dam. There are waterfalls like Megam, Periyar and Punniyampadi for tourists to bathe. A boat house has been set up by constructing check dams in the Odai in the hill. The District has many such features to attract tourists.

Directly and indirectly, 16,300 acres of land benefit from Manimuktha and Gomukhi dams. Paddy, sugarcane, groundnut, sesame, and many vegetables are grown predominantly in these fields. Hence, this District is full of industries like the many sugar factories - Gomukhi, Mungilthuraipattu, Thyagadurgam etc. – and other industries like modern rice mills. Moreover, tasty wood apples are grown abundantly in the Government reserve forest areas and in villages on hill boundaries where the new afforestation scheme is implemented, and sent to other places.

I am happy to state that steps will be taken to develop these hill areas that have countless natural resources so as to meet future needs.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar and Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma implemented many schemes for the welfare of the hill people. Hon'ble Amma's Government that follows the path of Hon'ble Amma is also implementing many schemes, giving priority to hill people's welfare. I wish to mention a few of them here.

✶ For the first time, a project officer was posted and an office set up in 2017 for the effective implementation of the schemes for Scheduled Tribes residing in the Kalvarayan hills, ensuring speedy disbursal of the benefits of the schemes for them.

✶ Steps for the educational promotion of scheduled tribes have been taken through filling up vacancies with scheduled tribe B.Ed. graduates and with those who have completed middle-level teacher training.

★ Steps are being taken for setting up a Sports Skill Development Centre at a cost of Rs.5 crore at Vallimalai to enable ST people to participate in international sports events.

Through this event, I am happy to mention that through the creation of the new Kallakurichi District, a new taluk, inclusive of the Kalvarayan Hills where hill people reside has been formed. Building works for this will be started shortly. Also, an Accident cum Emergency Treatment Centre has been set up through the Department of Health, at the Kallakurichi District Headquarters Hospital at a cost of Rs.3.90 crore. Works are underway for the construction of an institute of obstetrics and gynaecology at a cost of Rs.12.50 crore. An Accident cum Emergency Treatment Centre has been set up at the Ulundurpet Government Hospital at a cost of Rs.1.35 crore.

The Highways Department is executing many schemes; for the current year also, many more works have been taken up.

In the years 2011 to 2018, road works to a length of 1,074 km and 12 bridge works have been completed at a cost of Rs.671 crore in Kallakurichi District. If so much work can be carried out in this region, one should ponder how efficient Amma's Government is. In the current year, road works for a length of 403 km and 4 bridge works are being carried out at a cost of Rs.528 crore. I am happy to state that Amma's Government has been implementing the demands of the people of this region, like road development and construction of new bridges.

Under the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity and Financial Assistance Scheme, Rs.5,265.46 crore has been given as assistance to 60,92,071 to pregnant women. Under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme, Rs. 5,767.27 crore medical assistance has been given to 31,57,462 beneficiaries.

Under the Marriage Assistance Scheme, Amma's Government has distributed Rs. 6,068.37 crore as assistance and gold for `thali' to 12,36,871 beneficiaries - 5,998 kg of gold worth Rs.1,752.60 crore and Rs.4,315.83 crore as financial assistance.

I am mentioning all this because the opposition party men and the leader of opposition and DMK president Thiru. Stalin are levelling a wrong and false accusation wherever they go that no benefit has accrued to the people in this regime. We mention with statistics that we take Amma's programmes to people without any deviation or leaving a loophole whether it be during the times of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma or after her demise.

Under the distribution of milch cows at no cost scheme, cows costing Rs. 333.01 crore were distributed to 90,675 beneficiaries. People in this hill region wanted more cows to be distributed. I am happy to say that I have issued orders for distribution of a greater number of cows.

Under the scheme for distribution of goats/sheep at no cost, 41,64,656 goats/sheep were distributed to 10,41,164 beneficiaries at an expenditure of Rs.343.94 crore. Agriculture is the primary occupation in this District. As animal husbandry is the subsidiary activity here, we are implementing Hon'ble Amma's scheme in a full-fledged manner so as to increase the income of farmers and farm labour. Poultry development scheme has been started for the economic development of rural women. Through the scheme, we have distributed 25 native hens each to 2,40,000 women. We have launched this scheme on the basis of an investigation initiated to identify the means through which women's economic development can be achieved. Amma's Government recorded an achievement through distribution of goats and sheep to 1,50,000 persons in 2018-2019. Likewise, through distribution of a cow each to 15,000 persons, Amma's Government has provided a livelihood for those families. In the year 2018-2019 alone, through this scheme, brought by Amma for the economic development of women, 4,05,000 women benefited. Thiru. Stalin! Wherever you go you are asking, what have you done in your rule? If the poor are to progress, if the country is to develop, the economy should improve. For that rural economy should improve and for that Government should act. For the development of rural economy, our Government is implementing this scheme, following in the footsteps of Amma.

In the 2016 Assembly election campaign Hon'ble Amma announced that working women would be given two wheelers at subsidized rates once she assumed office again as Chief Minister. Unfortunately Amma passed away. Though Amma is no more, Amma's Government is implementing Amma's promise. In the years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, Amma's Government gave a subsidy of Rs.389.54 crore for 1,62,494 women to purchase two wheelers. I am proud to state that the AIADMK Government is implementing without any deviation all the plans it announced during election time.

I have today declared open 52 PWD works completed at a cost of Rs.24.77 crore inclusive of 22 PWD works, costing Rs.12.27 crore; laid the foundation for 519 works to be executed at a cost of Rs.195.60 crore inclusive of 164 Highways Department works valued at Rs.121 crore; and distributed different kinds of welfare assistance valued at Rs.23.59 crore to 5,873 beneficiaries. This has turned out to be not merely the inauguration of Kallakurichi District but one of distributing welfare assistance to people of this region.

A percolation pond at a cost of Rs.42 lakh in Sendamangalam village, Ulundurpet taluk is to be taken up; an additional reservoir is to be built by constructing a small anaicut across Kalpadai river on the upper reaches of Gomukhi Anaicut and another small anaicut across Pottiam river; and a scheme to use the surplus water during flooding season in Pennaiyar for re-charging the ground water in Koraiyaru and Malattaru areas, is to be implemented. " We will execute what we have stated; we will say what we have executed" said Hon'ble Amma. I wish to state that we, who follow Hon'ble Amma's path, will talk to people only about the schemes under implementation and go ahead with the execution of those schemes.

We continue all the schemes that were implemented by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar, the Parangimalai Paari (benefactor) who was on par with the legendary 'Parambumalai' Paari, and by Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. I am proud to say that all sections of people applaud this Government as a great Government.

Followers as we are of Hon'ble Amma's motto " I am for the people; I am solely for the people", we will do what we say and say only what we have done. Accordingly, I am happy to say that this new District has been created as per my announcements in the Assembly.

The prime occupation of the people of the Districts of Villupuram and Kallakurichi is agriculture. A number of measures are being taken to benefit the people of these two Districts. A huge food park is proposed to be set up near Tindivanam by Amma's Government. Marketing farmers' produce like vegetables and fruits through the food park at fair prices will fetch good profit. Farmers produce from other Districts will be acquired online at the food park and the sale proceeds will be given to the producers in their own Districts. We have planned to set up food parks in 10 Districts and action is taken in this direction.

'Kudimaramathu' is Amma Government's prime scheme. I come from a farmer's family. 'Kudimaramathu' scheme, started in 2016-2017 is an off-shoot of the water management scheme and is implemented by selecting lakes every year as has been done in the years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, with the full participation of farmers. At present we are seeing that rain water during monsoon period gets stored in lakes, tanks and ponds without wastage even of a drop. Farmers can remove free of cost, the alluvial soil obtained through this scheme after getting permission from officials and apply it as natural manure in their fields. Earlier, not even a tractor of soil could be removed. I am proud to say that the Government that changed such a condition and dedicated this wonderful scheme to farmers is Amma's Government.

Moreover, construction of check dams across rivers and odais is on to prevent rain water from draining into the sea wastefully and to make available needed water to farmers and the general public. A 3-year scheme has been designed for it with an allotment of Rs.1,000 crore. In the last 2 years, construction work has taken place at an expenditure of Rs.600 crore.

Only Amma's Government is implementing newer and newer schemes needed by agriculturists. We are demonstrating through action that Amma's Government is a farmers' Government and one that reflects farmers' thoughts.

In the DMK's 5 year rule, interest free crop loan was given to an extent of Rs.9,163 crore; but Amma's Government, I am proud to say, has disbursed such loan to the tune of Rs.10,000 crore in just one year.

We give at subsidized rates machinery like tractors and power tillers needed by farmers; offer drip irrigation machine at 100 per cent subsidy to farmers with one hectare of land and at 75 per cent subsidy to other farmers having more than one hectare. This Government does not confine itself to announcements but is one that implements. Amma's Government is the one that provides subsidy for purchase of electric motors that operate on solar energy.

When maize-growing farmers were severely affected last year on account of loss of income due to Fall Armyworm attack

on their crops, Amma's Government gave a compensation of Rs.182 crore. To prevent a repeat of that attack this year, Rs.49 crore was allotted and pesticide sprayed in all fields throughout Tamil Nadu, where maize crop is raised.

I am saying all these things because the present leader of the opposition does not know anything and does not read also. He utters lies wherever he goes; but accuses me of being an embodiment of lies. We are narrating our achievements with data. We don't speak lies; there is no need for it. We speak the truth; we act truthfully. We have demonstrated that Amma's Government is the only Government that takes action after identifying the needs of the people.

We propose to set up a huge modern integrated and multi-disciplined animal husbandry park of world class quality on 1,886 acres of land on the borders of the newly created Kallakurichi District and Salem District, covering dairy, fisheries and technology. For the infrastructure facilities of this project alone, Rs.1,000 crore will be allotted. In the first phase, Rs.396 crore will be made available and a veterinary medical college and a research station will be established. Our aim is to produce through research, cross-bred cows for our farmers that are suitable to our climate and yield two to three times more milk than at present. In the first stage, Rs.82 crore will be allotted for construction of buildings. We are creating awareness among farmers owning cattle. For industrial entrepreneurs, training classes will be conducted regarding animal husbandry and suggestions will be given in respect of production of animal husbandry products and their marketing. Facilities will be made for taking up cattle maintenance, animal husbandry technologies and high class research jointly with local and overseas universities.

Facilities like a vehicle parking lot, children's park, exhibition, ornamental fishes exhibition and sales outlet, restaurant and marketing complexes for milk, milk products, egg, fish and mutton will be set up in this animal husbandry park. The project will be started shortly.

The leader of the opposition Thiru.Stalin is raising the suspicion whether local bodies election will be held. The State Election Commission (SEC) has taken up all works for the conduct of the election. Till 1996, Mayor was elected only through indirect election in Tamil Nadu. Thiru. Stalin talks, forgetting that he was the first person who faced direct election during DMK's rule. Later in 2006, it was Thiru.Stalin who changed the direct election into indirect election and announced it. For the conduct of the indirect election, he had clearly and exhaustively replied in the Assembly. Now, why is he afraid of facing indirect election? Only councillors, elected by people, are electing the leaders of Town Panchayats, Municipalities and the Mayors. What is wrong in it? Does he means that it is right if they do it and wrong if we do it. If you say it is wrong, does it apply to what has been done by you in the year 2006? Did you implement only such wrong schemes? I wish to state if that was correct, this is also correct.

I am extremely happy to make some new announcements for the welfare of the people of this newly created District on this auspicious day.

- ✶ A detailed project report will be prepared for a 23 km long bypass road to Kallakurichi city. Government will take steps to set up the bypass road to reduce traffic congestion in this city.
- ✶ Ulundurpet taluk hospital will be upgraded and necessary infrastructure facilities will be created.
- ✶ Amma's Government will take steps to set up a co-ed Government arts and science college in Rishivandhiyam.
- ✶ A check dam will be constructed at a cost of Rs.8.95 crore across Manimuthar river near Kongarayapalayam-Kandachimangalam village, Kallakurichi Taluk.
- ✶ Across Gadilam river, a check dam will be constructed at a cost of Rs.5.50 crore near East Marudur village, Ulundurpet Taluk.
- ✶ Near Poottai village, Sankarapuram taluk, a check dam will be constructed across Mani river at a cost of Rs.2.56 crore.
- ✶ A check dam will be constructed in Nariyan Odai near Ku. Kallakurichi village, Ulundurpet taluk at a cost of Rs.2.35 crore. About 665 acres will benefit from these check dams.
- ✶ Construction of an underground sewer with 3.68 MLD capacity will be taken up in Ulundurpet Town Panchayat at a cost of Rs.38.67 crore.

As I was coming to this function, members of the public asked me what the Government proposed to do for the Pongal festival this year. I replied that their request was under Government's consideration and that I will make an announcement about it in this function. Thai Pongal is a special festival for Tamils. The people celebrate it in an excellent manner since it represents the tradition and heritage of Tamils. Last year, Amma's Government implemented the scheme to distribute Rs.1,000 cash and the customary Pongal Gift hamper to all family card holders eligible to draw rice, so that the drought did not impact the poor and every one could celebrate Pongal in a fitting manner. This year, there is good rain. Farmers have spent their money on inputs and in other works and suffer without adequate income. For joyous celebration of Pongal this year, I am happy to state that a cash gift of Rs.1,000 each and the Pongal gift hamper containing, among other things 1 kg of raw rice,1 kg of sugar, sugar cane, cashew and dried grapes will be given as it was given last year to all family card holders eligible to draw rice.

This is your Government, the people's Government, the only Government, the AIADMK Government that understands people's requirements and implements them. I thank Hon'ble ministers and all others including Government officials who helped in all ways for the creation of this new Kallakurichi District.

Nandri! Vanakkam.

'Create awareness about HIV, AIDS among people'

World AIDS Day message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on 30.11.2019 *(English Translation)*.

Every year, December 1 is observed as World AIDS day to create awareness among people about AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). This year's theme is 'Communities make the difference'.

With the lofty aim that HIV/AIDS affected persons should not be overlooked, the Tamil Nadu Government that treads the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, has given an additional fund of Rs. 5 crore in the current financial year (2019-2020) to the Tamil Nadu Trust for Children affected by AIDS which is functioning with a fund of Rs.10 crore to help orphaned HIV/AIDS affected children. This will help 1,000 more children to get welfare assistance like nutritious food and educational scholarship.

The Tamil Nadu Government is also implementing other welfare programmes excellently for HIV/AIDS affected persons like issuing free bus pass to commute to hospital, a monthly pension of Rs.1,000 under the Chief Minister's Uzhavar Pathukappu Thittam and monthly pension to young widows by relaxing the age limit criterion.

In Tamil Nadu, the Government pays special attention to controlling HIV/AIDS and effectively undertakes the work of prevention and control in all the 29 Districts through the criteria set for them. To detect the HIV condition, tests are taken through the 2,883 Integrated Counselling and Intensive Treatment Centres (ICITCs) and 16 mobile ICITCs. Also, effective treatment is given through the 216 treatment centres for sexually transmitted diseases.

Moreover, 55 Anti-retroviral therapy centres and 174 link Anti-retroviral therapy treatment centres at Taluk level are treating HIV affected persons. To prevent parent to child transmission, the ICITCs and Integrated treatment centres, functioning in every District Government Hospital are giving special medical treatment to all pregnant women.

The Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society is creating awareness about HIV/ AIDS and sexually transmitted contagious diseases among school and college students and the general public through holding memes awareness competitions and mobile Information Education and Communication services (IEC).

I affectionately request you to create awareness among people about HIV/AIDS, take a pledge to create a HIV/AIDS free Tamil Nadu, undergo voluntary blood test to prevent this condition, show compassion to the affected ones, treat them equally and help develop self-confidence in them.

Hon'ble Chief Minister hands over cheque for Rs. 75 lakh towards Chennai film fest

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 18.11.2019, handed over a cheque for Rs.75 lakh, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, to Thiru. A.Thangaraj, General Secretary of Indo Cine Appreciation Foundation, towards the 17th Chennai International Film Festival, to be held in Chennai from 12.12.2019 to 18.12.2019.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had extended assitance in many ways to add to the prestige of the Tamil film world. In the year 2013, for the first time in the country, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma organized the centenary of Indian Films in Chennai. For this, the Tamil Nadu Government sanctioned Rs. 10 crore as grant to the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce.

In the 9th Chennai International Film Festival in 2011, Rs. 25 lakh grant was given on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government. From the year 2012 to 2017, the grant by the Tamil Nadu Government was increased from Rs. 25 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh. Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami has increased the grant for the Chennai Film Festival for the current year from Rs.50 lakh to Rs. 75 lakh.

In this connection, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over a cheque for Rs. 75 lakh to Thiru. A.Thangaraj, who is also the Director of the Chennai International Film Festival.

Report submitted on Gaja cyclone measures

A copy of the study report on Gaja Cyclone, which hit Tamil Nadu on 16th November 2018, was handed over to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami by the Additional Secretary of the National Disaster Management Authority, Dr.Tirupugazh I.A.S., at the Secretariat on 19.11.2019 .

The report, which covers advance measures taken by the Tamil Nadu Government to combat the cyclone, damages due to cyclone, efforts of the Government agencies and other social service organizations in the rescue and relief operations and on how to function in future in case of similar disasters, has been submitted.

The study report was prepared with the co-operation of the State Government and the administrations of the affected Districts. Field visits were conducted in 2 heavily affected Districts and interviews held with the members of local public and Government employees.

Detailed consultation meetings were held with the officials of the Commissioner of Revenue Administration and Electricity Board, as well as those of the Animal Husbandry, Agriculture and PWD Departments and Local Bodies. Meetings were also conducted with the affected people and non-Government organizations.

The report covers heads such as advance measures taken in connection with the Gaja Cyclone, keeping cyclone centres ready, appointment of I.A.S. Officers for the cyclone affected Districts, supervising all relief works by co-ordinating various agencies and supply of 27 essential articles to the affected people. ■

New buildings for Integrated CTOs to provide more facilities to people

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 19.11.2019, declared open through video conferencing, 3 Integrated Commercial Tax Office Buildings,1 Commercial Tax Office building and one Sub-Registrar's Office, all constructed at a cost of Rs. 42 crore, 90 lakh and 60,000 in Tiruvallur, Namakkal, Tiruppur and Madurai Districts .

In order to provide more conveniences to people coming to the Commercial Tax Offices and to create a conducive atmosphere for the staff, the Integrated Commercial Tax Office for the Chennai (North) Division has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 26.51 crore at Vepery, Chennai. The new integrated building houses the Joint Commissioner's Office and 32 Commercial Tax Offices.

Similarly, in Tiruvallur District, under the jurisdiction of Chennai (South) Division, the Nazarethpet Integrated Commercial Tax Office Building, accommodating Deputy Commissioner (Commercial Tax) – Range II and 10 Commercial Tax Offices with Commuter Section, all built at a cost of Rs. 11.21 crore; Namakkal Integrated Commercial Tax Office at Namakkal Town in Namakkal District, housing Assistant Commissioner (Commercial Tax) Offices for Namakkal Town and Rural, Namakkal Commercial Tax Officer (Execution) and 3 other offices, constructed at a cost of Rs. 3.45 crore and Commercial Tax Office at Avinashi in Tiruppur District, built at a cost of Rs. 79.20 lakh, were opened. Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open all these buildings from the Secretariat through video conferencing.

The new Commercial Tax Office buildings have crèche, dining hall, drinking water facility, bathroom facility, ramps for differently-abled persons and room for drivers to rest.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open the Sub Registrar's Office, constructed at a cost of Rs. 94.40 lakh at Vadipatti in Madurai District, to provide more facilities to members of the public who frequently visit the office.

Hon’ble Chief Minister unveils Tirupathur as new District, assures steps to develop it to great heights

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** after inaugurating the newly created Tirupathur District, laying the foundation for new scheme works, launching the completed scheme works and distributing Government welfare assistance at a function held at Tirupathur on 28.11.2019 *(English Translation)*.

I prostrate before Goddess Hon’ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Acceding to the long-standing demand of the people of this region and the District Ministers that a new District with Tirupathur as headquarters should be created, a new Tirupathur District has been carved out of Vellore District and is inaugurated today. During the recently concluded Parliament election also, such requests came to me from different sections of people and I told them then that their requests would be examined.

As a result of the series of steps taken by Hon’ble Amma’s Government, I announced in the previous Independence Day speech that Tirupathur District would be created.

Accordingly, I am happy to declare that this District has emerged today.

I wish to mention some of the salient features of the new District at this pleasant hour.

As per a research findings, the name Tirupathur came into vogue as there were 10 holy places in the 8 directions between Adhiyur and Kodiyur. Tirupathur was called by different names as Brammapuram, Thiruperur and Thiruvanapuram when Tirupathur was ruled by different kings and that the Vijayanagar kings changed the name Thiruvanapuram into Tirupathur. Tirupathur Town is surrounded by two huge hills – Javadhu and Yelagiri hills. Javadhu hill is an enchanting hill, captivating the visitor with waterfalls amidst Nature's splendor, streams and forests. The Bheeman waterfalls and the Amirthi zoological park in this hill are tourist attractions.

The rivers Cheyyaru, Araniyaru, Kamandala Naganadhi Aaru and Miruganda Nadhi originate from the Javadhu hills. Most of the hill people here belong to the 'Malayali' tribe. Their main occupation is agriculture. This hill has the very best sandalwood trees. That is why the second biggest sandalwood godown in Asia is located at Tirupathur. As Tirupathur is very near the Javadhu hills and has a big sandalwood godown, it is also called 'Sandal City'.

The biriyani prepared in Ambur in this District is world famous. The extensive leather industry here is not only a high foreign exchange earner but also provides employment to people here.

The Jolarpettai railway junction is an important one, connecting cities like Trivandrum, Bengaluru and Mumbai.

Tirupathur District was created even in 1790, during British rule and Kindersley was appointed the first District Collector. He held the post till 03.04.1792. Later the united Salem District was formed and Tirupathur was its headquarters. The Collectorate built by the Britishers functions as the railway station today. In the efflux of time, Tirupathur became a part of Salem, Chittoor and North Arcot Districts and today it has become a new District due to Amma's Government. A contingent of the British army, on its way to Mysuru from Arcot in British rule, reached Tirupathur. To quench their thirst, the soldiers went to a community well. The patriotic people of Tirupathur not only denied them water and food because of their resentment, but also strewed their track with stones and felled trees to show their protest.

At this pleasant hour, I wish to give some administrative details about Tirupathur District.

Tirupathur is the headquarters of the newly created Tirupathur District. The area of the District is 1,798 sq.km. Its population is 11,11,812. As for revenue administration, there are two revenue divisions – Tirupathur and Vaniyambadi – four Taluks – Tirupathur, Vaniyambadi, Ambur and Natrampalli – 15 Firkas and 195 Revenue Villages. As for local administration, there are 4 Municipalities – Ambur, Tirupathur, Vaniyambadi and Jolarpettai – 7 Panchayat Unions inclusive of Natrampalli and Tirupathur, 3 Town Panchayats – Alangayam, Natrampalli and Udhayendram

– and 207 Village Panchayats. I wish to state that Hon'ble Amma's Government is to shortly conduct the local bodies election.

There is no connection between creation of new Districts and holding of local bodies election. But the leaders and members of the opposition parties are deliberately spreading the false news that local bodies election will not be held because of the division of Districts and creation of new Districts. It is wrong. On the basis of the already newly re-delineated wards in 2018, the Tamil Nadu State Election Commission will shortly conduct the local bodies election.

Generally, Government offices function from different places, causing inconvenience to people. To help people reach Government offices without difficulty, all the Government offices will be located at one place, in Tirupathur, on a 20 acre area adjacent to Tirupathur main road.

The Brahmeswarar temple in Tirupathur and the Anjaneyar temple in Ambur are the important temples in this District. There are many mosques in Ambur and Vaniyambadi areas of this District.

Yelagiri hill, commonly known as the 'Ooty of the poor' is at a distance of 8 kms from Tirupathur. This hill, nestling amidst Nature's beauty, is 1,700 metres above sea level. As an important summer resort, it is a great tourists' draw. The important tourist spots in this hill are Jalagamparai water falls, Poonganur lake and children's park.

The Kavalur observatory in Javadhu hills adds glory to Tirupathur. This biggest observatory in whole of South Asia is located on a 100 acre area and is named after the scientist Vainu Bappu.

Tirupathur District is home to the Islamiah college where many scholars studied and worked. This District has many such grandeurs.

As Tirupathur District has been carved out newly, infrastructure facilities for industries other than the important ones - leather and agriculture - will be developed. This will contribute to the further growth of this region. I firmly declare that this District will grow and be prosperous on par with other Districts and rise to become a premier District. Amma's Government will take all steps towards this.

At the M.G.R. centenary function held on 09.09.2017, I declared that the Andiappanur Odai reservoir in Vaniyambadi Taluk would be developed into a tourist spot for the enjoyment of people and tourists. Accordingly, I am happy

to state that works are being carried out on an allotment of Rs.1.30 crore to develop the area as a tourist spot. The Ambur Municipality 24.32 MLD drinking water development scheme works have been completed and water supply was inaugurated by me on 31.10.2019.

The Highways Department has constructed a flyover in Velakalnatham road at a cost of Rs.23.45 crore and another one at Natrampalli-Thamalerimuthur road at a cost of Rs.16.38 crore and both have been thrown open for public use. It was Amma's Government that had completed road works to a length of 747 km and 56 bridge works at a cost of Rs.468 crore between 2011 and 2018 in this District and brought them to public use. In the current year, road works to a length of 246 km and 40 bridge works are being carried out at a cost of Rs.550 crore.

Under the 'kudimaramathu' scheme, Hon'ble Amma's Government has restored 26 lakes at a cost of Rs.4 crore through the PWD; under the 13th Finance Commission scheme, renovation of 7 lakes at a cost of Rs.1.71 crore and 8 more lakes at a cost of Rs.3.06 crore are being carried out. Over and above this, under NABARD scheme, construction of a check dam at a cost of Rs.2.48 crore is in progress.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is greatly focussed on maternity and child health care. I wish to point out that the Government has taken up the works of turning the maternity and neo-natal health care centre at Tirupathur Government hospital into a centre of excellence at a cost of Rs.18 crore and that of setting up an Accident cum Emergency Treatment Centre at a cost of Rs. 4 crore.

Considering the development of women in rural and urban areas, bank credit linkage has been given for Rs.688 crore to 6,500 women Self Help Groups in this District so far from the year 2011.

The leader of the opposition Thiru. Stalin is spreading the false information wherever he goes in Tamil Nadu that Self Help Groups were formed in DMK's rule and that it was the DMK Government that gave higher quantum of loan to these groups. But we have proved that it is Amma's Government that formed Self Help Groups by organizing women from poor families in rural and urban areas into a team even in the days of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, providing funds for these teams to start ventures on their own and thus created a condition for them to stand on their own legs. As a result of this, in this District alone Rs.688 crore loan has been given for Self Help Groups from the year 2011.

In the AIADMK party's manifesto for the 2016 assembly elections, Hon'ble Amma promised to distribute two wheelers to working women at subsidized rates, if returned to power. Though Amma is no more, our Government that follows the path of Amma, I am happy to say, carried out that scheme by distributing two wheelers with a subsidy content of Rs. 5.68 crore to 2,269 working women in this District alone.

Under the scheme of distribution of cows at no cost, designed to improve the economic condition of poor farmers, cows

were distributed in the last 8 years to 1,805 beneficiaries in this District at a cost of Rs.7.76 crore. Likewise, goats/ sheep were distributed to 22,638 beneficiaries at a cost of Rs.29.69 crore. The only Government that implements all the schemes announced by Amma without any deviation whatsoever and contributes to the economic development of the poor and downtrodden, is Hon'ble Amma's Government.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is providing uninterrupted power by setting up electric sub stations in the areas of K.V.Koratti, Vaniyambadi, Natrampalli, Matrampalli, Kandali, Jolarpettai, Udhayendram and Pallikonda at a cost of Rs.62 crore in the last 8 years.

As a farmer Chief Minister, I wish to mention some of the schemes I took forward in the Agriculture Department.

Round-the-clock power supply is very important for a country's development. Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, not only announced in the manifesto for the 2011 Assembly Election, that Tamil Nadu would be turned into a State without any power cut by providing un-interrupted power supply in 3 years after assuming office as Chief Minister, but also vowed to do so in the Assembly. True to her words, I am proud to say, that Amma's Government is the only Government that gave un-interrupted power in 3 years for the industrial growth of the State and for the needs of the people.

By crossing the 100 lakh metric tonne mark in food grain production for the 6th time in the last 8 years, the State, has achieved a record. As a result of this, Hon'ble Amma's Government bagged the central Government award of 'Krishi Karman' 5 times in the years between 2011-2012 and 2017-2018 and left its stamp in the field of agriculture.

The Prime Minister's Crop Insurance scheme has been expanded to cover more crops and more areas so that a larger number of

agriculturists can benefit. In the current year, it is implemented on an allotment of Rs.634.74 crore. It is our Government that has got Rs.7,000 crore to agriculturists as compensation in the last two-and-a-half years.

Besides taking immediate action to protect the maize crop when they came under attack from Fall Armyworm in 17 Districts in the State in 2018, Hon'ble Amma's Government gave relief to agriculturists to the tune of nearly Rs.186 crore and thus set up a record. It is again Hon'ble Amma's Government that has sprayed insecticides in maize crop fields this year to prevent Fall Armyworm attack and pave the way for farmers to get higher yields.

At a time when no State in the Country has passed any law for contract farming, it is unique that Tamil Nadu Government has enacted such a law, and is the first State to do so.

The former Minister from this District Thiru. Durai Murugan is conveying many wrong things. Hence, I wish to mention the steps being taken by Hon'ble Amma's Government for ensuring the rights of Thenpennaiyar irrigation farmers.

As the Karnataka Government continued construction work for a dam across Markandeya Nadhi, an interim injunction petition was filed in the Supreme Court on 03.07.2019 for stopping it and the senior experienced advocate for Tamil Nadu Government presented excellent arguments. In its judgment on 14.11.2019, the Supreme Court, without admitting Tamil Nadu's interim petition, directed that the Central Government should be approached within 4 weeks for the setting up of a Tribunal to resolve the issue. The original petition filed by Tamil Nadu is still pending. Its next hearing is on10.01.2020. After obtaining legal opinion from experts on the 14.11.2019 on the Supreme Court judgment, Hon'ble Amma's Government will take constructive steps to protect the interests of Thenpennaiyar irrigation farmers and to establish Tamil Nadu's rights.

Not only this. The Central Government has deferred the moving of the Dam Safety Bill in Parliament following a representation made in person by our Hon'ble Ministers to the Union Water Resources Minister at New Delhi. The Bill has features affecting Tamil Nadu's rights over water resources and this in turn will affect the State's agriculturists greatly. Our ministerial delegation insisted that the bill should be re-drafted so that it does not affect Tamil Nadu's rights in any way.

I proudly state that developmental programmes for farmers like these and measures to protect their rights are being undertaken by a Government headed by a farmer who understands the sentiments of farmers.

In today's event, I declared open 176 buildings constructed for the Departments of Treasury, Health and Rural Development at a cost of Rs.37.95 crore; laid the foundation for 43 works, costing Rs.27.38 crore inclusive of 39 works of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat valued at Rs.19.68 crore; and distributed different kinds of welfare assistance valued at Rs.94.37 crore to 7,977 beneficiaries.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing its ban on one-time

use plastics. I affectionately request all of you at this hour to follow this fully in the interest of the welfare of the future generations and by way of guaranteeing their healthy life.

Setting aside politics, all those interested in public welfare are applauding Hon'ble Amma Government's actions. Wise men say that all prosperity accrues to a country which takes action for people's welfare. When I think of this, I am reminded of a story narrated by Hon'ble Amma at a function.

A king was ruling his country very righteously. The country had all riches. One night, when he was going round his fort, he saw a woman going out of the palace. He asked: "Mother, who are you; why are you going out at this midnight hour?". The woman replied: "I am Thirumagal (Goddess of wealth). I don't stay permanently at a place. I have stayed here for long; so I am leaving". "It is your wish; you can go", the king said. After a while, another woman was coming out of the palace. "Who are you,Mother", the King asked. "I am Kalaimagal (Goddess of Learning); I cannot stay in a place where Thirumagal is not there. So I am leaving". When the King heard this, he said: "All right, Mother; you can go". Some time after, a third woman was going out. "Mother, who are you and where are you going?",the King asked. "I am Malaimagal (Goddess of Valour). What work have I in this palace when Thirumagal and Kalaimagal have left," she said, and left the place. After some more time, a fourth woman was seen leaving the palace. "Mother, who are you?" asked the king. "I am Dharma Devathai (Embodiment of Righteousness)", said the woman. The king immediately prostrated in front of the woman and requested: "Mother! Whomsoever wants to go, let them leave; but you should not go. If righteousness exits, my kingdom will be destroyed. Please stay back". Dharma Devathai consented and went back into the palace. A short while afterwards, Malaimagal came back and went into the palace saying, "I cannot stay out, discarding the place where Dharmam is". Following her, Kalaimagal also entered the palace saying: "I will remain at the place where truth and justice prevail" . Thirumagal said: "O! King I will reside where there is truth, Dharmam and justice. The place where they are absent will become a hunting ground for bad elements. So I have come back here". Where truth thrives, all riches come on their own.

This regime is a successor to Sathiya Thaai Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and it treads the path of truth; as such, I am happy to say that all prosperity will come to people on their own in this regime.

To redress the problems of the rural and urban poor, I announced the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal scheme. Petitions were received from all Districts. I wish to give some details about it.

Totally 9,72,216 petitions were received; of them, 5,11,186 were taken up for consideration; on 23,538 petitions appropriate action is being taken. We have advised officials to re-examine the rejected 4,37,492 petitions and take necessary action on bonafide petitions if there are any. We are demonstrating that Amma's Government is the only Government that sends

officials to receive petitions directly through the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal scheme and resolve the problems cited in all the bonafide petitions.

Through its announcement and follow up action, Amma's Government has made it possible for 5 lakh senior citizens who cannot go to work, to get old-age pension of Rs.1,000. The number of beneficiaries is for the current year alone.

Amma's Government announced and implemented last year a Pongal gift of Rs.1,000 to family rice card holders. I had already announced at the inaugural of Kallakurichi District that a Pongal gift of Rs.1,000 would be given in a similar fashion this year also to 2.05 crore family rice card holders. I am happy to state that the first phase of this distribution will take place tomorrow at Chennai Fort. Along with this cash gift, the usual Pongal kit of one kg raw rice, 1 kg of sugar, sugarcane, cashew nuts, dried grapes and cardamom will also be distributed. Amma's Government is implementing many schemes like these.

There are 42 villages in the Javadhu hills in Tirupathur Taluk, Tirupathur District. The Matrapalli – Pudurnadu road that connects Tirupathur City, plays a big role in the education, health and livelihood development of people of these hill villages. Matrapalli-Pudurnadu road branches off from Tirupathur-Singarapettai road (SH 18 A) at the point 7/8 KM. The Matrapalli-Pudurnadu road is a 3.75 KM wide District city road from the point 0/0 KM to 20/930. This road is a land level road from the point 0/0 km to 8/0 and a mountain road from km point 8/0 to 20/930. Through Pudurnadu Village, up to Neduvasal, Singarapettai forest road is there. Through these two roads, hill people reach Tirupathur and Singarapettai to market their agricultural produce and to improve their livelihood through education and taking up employment. I wish to state at this hour that this road will be renovated at a cost of Rs.25 crore by Amma's Government.

This scheme, requested by the Hon'ble Minister of your District, Thiru.K.C.Veeramani, is under Central Government's examination. The first stage of the work to upgrade the 44 km stretch of Salem-Tirupathur-Vaniyambadi national highway from A.Pallipatti to Uthankarai via Arur from a two lane to four lane traffic road, at an estimate of Rs. 300 crore, has started by calling for tenders. In continuation of this, a detailed report for widening the 45 km stretch from Uthankarai to Vaniyambadi via Tirupathur so as to have four lane traffic from the present two lane traffic, at a cost of Rs.300 crore has been prepared and forwarded to the Central Government for approval. I am happy to say that this road will be widened as soon as the permission is granted.

I wish to make some announcements for the development of this new District:

A check dam will be constructed at a cost of Rs.1.96 crore near Irunampattu Village, Tirupathur Taluk for the benefit of Irunampattu and Asanampattu Villages.

A bed level retaining wall will be constructed across Palar near Vengili Village, Ambur Taluk at a cost of Rs.3.83 crore.

A check dam will be constructed across Kanaru near Vannanthurai Village, Ambur Taluk at a cost of Rs.2.50 crore.

Appropriate steps will be speedily taken to solve the drinking water problem in this District.

An out-patient ward and an ICU unit will be constructed at a cost of Rs.7.50 crore at the Ambur Government Hospital.

A CEMONC centre will be set up at a cost of Rs.10 crore at the Ambur Government hospital complex.

In the Vaniyambadi Government hospital complex, a CEMONC centre will be set up at a cost of Rs.10 crore.

To develop the leather processing industry, a skill development centre will be constructed at Vaniyambadi.

A new indoor stadium will be constructed in the Yelagiri hills.

A botanical garden will be set up in Yelagiri at a cost of Rs.50 lakh.

I wish to state that all the announcements I have made are for the development of your District. Amma's Government takes the credit of creating 5 new Districts in a year. Also, there is no precedent in Tamil Nadu history of two Districts being inaugurated on the same day. Carving out new Districts will help better functioning of the District administration.

The new Tirupathur District is inaugurated today amidst Nature's splendour, encircling mountains and in a cool weather. I convey my appreciation and good wishes to all the good hearts who were supportive of the formation of this District speedily and for arranging this function in an excellent way.

Nandri! Vanakkam.

Hon'ble Chief Minister greets SC Chief Justice

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami sent a congratulatory message on 18.11.2019, to Thiru. S.A.Bobde on his assumption of office as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's letter read:

"On behalf of the people and the Government of Tamil Nadu, I congratulate you on your assumption as the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India".

"I wish you all success".

Buildings at a cost of Rs. 90.91 crore boost higher education infrastructure

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 19.11.2019, declared open through the video conferencing the administrative and classrooms, constructed at a cost of Rs. 7 crore, 97 lakh and 50,000 for the Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Government Arts and Science College at Sirkazhi in Nagapattinam District.

On the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated buildings for various Government Arts and Science Colleges, Polytechnics, College of Education and Engineering Colleges, built at cost of Rs. 82 crore, 94 lakh and 38,000 in various Districts and two latest equipment at Birla Planetarium, Chennai, worth Rs.12.50 crore.

Government Arts and Science Colleges are functioning in all the Districts in the State. The Hon'ble Chief Minister announced in the State Assembly on 19.06.2017 under the Assembly Legislature Rule 110 that during the academic year 2017-2018, 7 new Government Arts and Science Colleges, 3 University Constituent Colleges and Colleges of Education would be inaugurated so that students in rural areas need not travel long distances for pursuing higher education. This would cost the Government Rs. 100.31 crore.

As per the announcement, one of the new Government Arts and Science Colleges, named

after Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar MGR, was declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister from the Secretariat in Chennai through video conferencing. For the college which is built on 4655.36 square metres, the Hon'ble Minister opened Educational buildings and administrative buildings, worth Rs. 7 crore, 97 lakh and 50,000.

The new building , which has a ground floor plus two floors, has classrooms, laboratories, seminar hall, computer rooms, student co-operative store, Principal's room, rooms for Department Heads, and drinking water and toilet facilities.

In Tiruttani in Tiruvallur District, for the Sri Subramania Swamy Government Arts College, 16 additional classrooms and 3 laboratory buildings, built at a cost of Rs. 3.92 crore;

In Quaid- e-Milleth College in Chennai, 8 additional classrooms and 2 laboratories, built at a cost of Rs. 2.24 crore, in the Presidency College in Chennai, 15 additional classrooms and 2 new laboratories, built at a cost of Rs. 3.50 crore; in Nandanam Arts College for men, 12 additional classrooms and 4 laboratory building, built at a cost of Rs. 3.82 crore;

In Tiruvannamalai Government Arts Colleges 10 additional classrooms and 2 laboratories, constructed at a cost of Rs. 2.27 crore; in the Government Arts and Science College in Hosur in Krishnagiri District 10 additional classrooms, costing Rs. 1.50 crore;

In Muthurangam Government Arts College in Vellore, Vellore District, 10 additional classrooms and 2 laboratories, built at a cost of Rs. 2.40 crore, 4 additional classrooms and 2 laboratory buildings in Government College of Education in Katpadi, constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.48 crore;

In Government Arts College in Coimbatore 10 additional classrooms, and 1 laboratory building (Rs.2.06 crore), Government Engineering College, Coimbatore building for the Thermal Engineering Department costing Rs. 1.03 crore;

In Attur Arignar Anna Government Arts College, Salem District, 12 additional classrooms and 3 laboratory buildings, in Salem Government Arts College for Women 20 additional classrooms and 2 laboratory rooms (Rs.4.08 crore);

In Udumalpet Government Arts College in Tiruppur District, 20 additional classrooms and 1 laboratory building (Rs.3.84 crore);

In Thiru. Kolanjiappar Government Arts College in Virudhachalam in Cuddalore District, 14 additional classrooms and 3 laboratory buildings (Rs. 3.24 crore), in Annamalai University, building for the College of Education (Rs. 5 crore, 89 lakh and 20,000);

Office Buildings for the Joint Directorate of Education, Thanjavur Region, Thanjavur,

at a cost of Rs. 1 crore 86 lakh,15,000; for the Thanjavur Rajah Serfoji Government Arts College 12 additional classrooms, 3 laboratory buildings and toilets, for Government College of Education, Orathanadu, 4 additional classrooms, 1 laboratory building and toilets (Rs.1.15 crore) and in Government Arts College, Kumbakonam (Autonomus) 10 additional classrooms (Rs.1.40 crore);

In Dharmapuram Gnanambigai Government Arts College, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam District, 6 upgraded classrooms and toilet block (Rs.70 lakh), in the Bharathidasan University Constituent College in Nagapattinam District, 2 additional classrooms, one seminar hall, 4 laboratory buildings, library building and other buildings (Rs. 5 crore);

In the Pudukkottai H.H. The Rajah's College, 16 additional classrooms and 3 laboratory buildings (Rs.3.56 crore), in the Government College of Education, 5 additional classrooms , 2 laboratory buildings and toilets (Rs. 1.50 crore), in Government Arts College for Women, Pudukkottai 10 classrooms and one laboratory building (Rs. 2.27 crore);

In Tiruchirapalli Government Arts College, Tiruchirapalli, 20 additional classrooms and 2 laboratory buildings (Rs.4.03 crore), in Government Polytechnic, Thuvakudi, hostel building (Rs. 2 crore), Women's hostel building (Rs.2 crore) at Annai Teresa University, Dindigul District; In Rani Anna Government Arts College , Tirunelveli, 18 additional classrooms, 5 laboratory buildings and employees room (Rs. 4.30 crore); in Paramakudi Government Arts College, Ramanathapuram District, 15 additional classrooms and 2 laboratory buildings and in Kovilpatti Government Arts College, Thoothukudi District 12 additional classrooms, employees rooms and toilets (Rs 2.62 crore).

Totally buildings, belonging to the Higher Education Department, worth Rs. 90 crore, 91 lakh and 88,000 were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 19.11.2019.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated the electronically operated planetarium, costing Rs. 10 crore and scientific equipment, valued at Rs. 2.50 crore at the B.M. Birla Planetarium, Periyar Science and Technology Centre in Kottupuram in Chennai.

Through the electronically operated planetarium, apart from seeing the structure of night sky of various countries in the day itself, one can also witness the change in sky structure during monsoon period, movement of planets, and get the feeling of seeing planets and stars at close quarters as if by travelling in a spacecraft.

Moreover, through the scientific instrument, visitors, especially students, can observe the movement of aircrafts and satellites, and also see natural disasters such as earthquake and tsunami, as well the earth's atmosphere, the major oceans, landscapes, and planets of the solar system.

Appointment orders to Foresters, Forest Guards

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 29.11.2019, issued appointment orders to 137 persons who were selected for the Department of Forests by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission. As a token, the Hon'ble Chief Minster handed over the appointment orders to 10 persons.

A country's wealth depends on its forest wealth. The maintenance and growth of forest wealth is important not only for human beings but also for other living things. Taking this into consideration, for the protection, growth and maintenance of forest resources and for the welfare of forest employees, the Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has been introducing many special schemes.

To protect forest wealth from encroachment, theft, felling of trees, fire, unauthorized grazing, hunting of wild animals and to strengthen the infrastructure, the Tamil Nadu Government, through the Tamil Nadu Forest Uniformed Services Recruitment Committee selected and appointed 300 Foresters, 726 Forest Guards and 61 Forest Guards with driving license in 2018. The selected candidates joined the posts after training.

Steps are being taken to recruit another 564 Forest Watchers, and 227 Forest Guards. As a follow up measure, 137 persons were selected and appointment orders were issued to them at the Secretariat by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami.

As a token, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the orders to 10 selected candidates at the Secretariat in Chennai. For their 20 months training period, the Government has decided to give time scale payment and meet other expenditure instead of ad hoc payment. For this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister issued orders sanctioning Rs. 17.72 crore.

Hon'ble Chief Minister's advice in his first ever film function

'Take Puratchi Thalaivar as role model and make healthy films for the youth'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, after distributing awards to artistes at the Vels Film International victory function 2019, held at Royapettah in Chennai on 24.11.2019 *(English Translation)*.

Bowing to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

Hon'ble Minister Thiru. Kamaraj, Hon'ble Minister Thiru. Karuppannan, Hon'ble Minister Dr.Vijaya Baskar, Hon'ble Minister Thiru. K.C.Veeramani, Hon'ble Minister Udumalai K.Radhakrishnan, respected Tamil Nadu Government's Special Representative in New Delhi, Thiru. Thalavai Sundaram, President of the Samathuva Katchi and film actor, Thiru. Sarath Kumar, Youth Wing Secretary of the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam, Thiru. Sathish, film producers, actors, artistes, MPs and MLAs, leading party representatives, elders and ladies, friends from the print and visual media and those who have come from the film industry. At the outset, I express my regards to you all.

I have participated in many functions. I have attended and spoken in Government functions and public meetings. But this is the first time that I am participating in a film-related function...that of film actor and President of Vels International, Thiru. Ishari Ganesh. I thank him for giving me this opportunity.

I am extremely happy to participate in this function and be with you all for the victory celebrations of three films produced by Vels Film International.

My hearty congratulations to Thiru. Ishari Ganesh, who within a year has introduced 3 new directors and produced 3 successful films. It is not an exaggeration to say that cinema plays a major role in entertaining people. Cinema reflects politics, art, culture and everyday life.

Generally, films which give importance to comedy succeed. However sad a man is, he forgets all his worries when he sees a comedy film. My hearty congratulations to Thiru. Ishari Ganesh.

Dadasaheb Phalke was the first to produce a silent film in India and he is called the father of Indian cinema. Indian Cinema, which started in 1913 has crossed 100 years and registered phenomenal growth.

A film is said to have achieved great success if it completes 100 days. Then, is it not a great victory when the film industry itself completes 100 years of existence in the country?

Tamil Cinema has played a major role in bringing fame to Indian cinema. Tamil film producers have given good films which have been acclaimed globally. I am really proud and happy to know that the quality of Tamil films is equal to that of international films.

Indian films witnessed a major change and upward shift from 1950 to 1960. During this period, Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.MGR was the undisputed King of South Indian films. Dr.MGR, who came to the film industry from the stage in 1924, rose to the position of Puratchi Thalaivar, Ponmana Chemmal, Makkal Thilagam and became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 1977. Even during his acting days, he had experienced the pangs of hunger. The first question he would later ask people when they came to meet him was whether they had taken food. If a visitor came with hunger, Dr.MGR, irrespective of day or night, would offer him food first as he knew the pangs of hunger. Such was his humanism.

Immediately after taking charge as the Chief Minister of the State, he created history by introducing mid-day meals scheme in all schools in Tamil Nadu to ensure that no student went hungry. Through this scheme, Tamil Nadu reaped 2 major benefits.

First, children in Tamil Nadu did not suffer from hunger during their younger days. Second, the enrolment of students in schools increased substantially.

The success of Dr.Puratchi Thalaivar MGR in films was due to the great efforts he had put in during his stage days. In a similar manner, even today those who come from the stage mostly succeed in cinema.

Dr.Ishari Velan, father of Dr.Ishari K.Ganesh, was also a stage artiste. That was the reason he was able to approach and move freely with Puratchi Thalaivar MGR and align himself with the political career of Puratchi Thalaivar MGR.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma played an equal role in the success of Puratchi Thalaivar in his film career. Since 1965, when Amma joined as a lead pair to Puratchi Thalaivar MGR in the film 'Aayirathil Oruvan', Hon'ble Puratchi Thalavi Amma acted in 28 films as lead pair to Puratchi Thalaivar MGR.

Both in their films and political careers, they had similar views and placed the welfare

of the people in the forefront and worked for their victory. These two great leaders were of the view that actors should be role models for people as well as youth and lived accordingly.

These two great leaders did not think that films were just for pleasure and entertainment. They utilized the film media as a forum for disciplining people.

Through the song,

"Nam Paadugira Paattum, Aadugira Koothum Padippinai Thanthaaganum" ('Our song and dance must show the way to people'), Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar MGR laid down the function of acting and songs.

Similarly, through songs like

"Nalla Nalla Pillaigalai Nambi,

indha Naade Irukkudhu Thambi",

Dr. MGR not only planted good ideas through his portrayals but also lived accordingly. On this occasion, I affectionately appeal to the film industry to have the well-being of our youth in mind and not to make films and not to act in roles that propagate harmful ideas among the youth. I am not saying this in any political sense but in the interest of society.

Puratchi Thalaivar MGR would never act in roles that spoilt the youth. He portrayed roles that would discipline them. Puratchi Thalaivar MGR followed such precepts in real life and rose in stature as a political leader. This is why party cadres who follow the ideals of Puratchi Thalaivar MGR and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma are able to function in a disciplined manner.

I am happy and proud to say that the party volunteers are standing like a solid steel fort and guiding both the party and the Government.

Despite facing a lot of difficulties and undergoing sufferings, the party cadres managed to overcome them successfully and are acting as the bulwark that protects AIADMK's steel fort.

Even today, people portray the period when Puratchi Thalaivar MGR and Puratchi Thalaivi Amma strode tall in the film world as the Golden Period of Cinema.

Many stalwarts were responsible for this. It is my duty to recollect their contribution in film functions like this.

Among them, producers of South like Modern Theatres T.R. Sundaram, A.V.Meiyappa Chettiar, Nagi Reddiar, M.M.A. Chinnappa Thevar and S.S.Vasan, film directors such as A.Bhimsingh, K.Shankar, P.Neelakantan, A.C.Thirulokchandar, Krishnan Panju, A.P.Nagarajan and K.Balachander and actors like Thyagaraja Bhagavathar, P.U.Chinnappa, Kalaivanar, Nadigar Thilagam Sivaji Ganesan, Gemini Ganesan, K.A.Thangavelu, Chandra Babu, P.S.Veerappa, M.N.Nambiar and Nagesh.

One should also remember famous actresses, cinematographers, dance directors, music directors, lyricists and playback singers. It was due to the foundation laid by these people that Tamil cinema has attained phenomenal growth today.

Similarly, the late Actor Isari Velan, who was associated with Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. in films continued his association with Puratchi Thalaivar in politics also.

After the formation of the R.K.Nagar Assembly constituency in Chennai, Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. made the late Isari Velan contest from the constituency, and got him

elected. Not only that, Puratchi Thalaivar accommodated him in his Cabinet by giving him the post equivalent to joint Minister.

As per the saying of Thirukkural

"Maganthanthaiku Aatrum Udhavi Iventhanthai

Ennotraan Kolenum Sol".

(It is the duty of a son to conduct himself in a way that makes others say, how much merit the father must have gained to have such a worthy son!)

I congratulate on your behalf Thiru.Ishari K.Ganesh for his efforts to propagate the memory and name of his father by starting Vels Educational Institutions and for celebrating their silver jubilee.

I am happy to know that today Vels Educational Institutions have more than 30,000 students and over 30 branches. Even as his father had love and affection for Puratchi Thalaivar MGR , Thiru. Ishari Ganesh was loyal to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who made him the secretary of the party's student wing. It is this loyalty that brought me to this function.

Thiru. Ishari Ganesh, who has been rendering yeoman service in the educational field has now entered the cinema field also. In the last one year, he has released 3 successful films. I heartily congratulate all the artistes who worked for the success of these films.

I would like to list out various welfare measures implemented by Amma's Government for the film industry.

To bring laurels to the film industry, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, for the first time in India, granted Rs. 10 crore to the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce for organizing a function to celebrate the centenary of Indian Cinema. The function was held for 4 days from 21.09.2013 to 24.09.2013. The Hon'ble President of India participated in the Indian Cinema Centenary function. Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and Chief Ministers from other States also participated in the centenary function.

The Tamil Nadu Government has totally given Rs. 4.75 crore as subsidy for various International film festivals held in Chennai. For the 15th International festival held in Chennai in 2017, the Tamil Nadu Government gave a subsidy of Rs.50 lakh, which was increased to Rs. 75 lakh for the 16th International Film festival in 2018. For the forthcoming 17th International Film Festival to be held from 12.12.2019 to 19.11.2019, the Government gave a subsidy of Rs. 75 lakh.

For the 12th Indian International Film Festival, organised by the National Film Federation Development Corporation, held at Goa, Rs.10 lakh was given. For the 13th Indian International Film Festival now being held in Goa, Rs. 10 lakh has been given.

For Thyagaraja Bhagavathar who was an illustrious singing star, the State Government is to set up a Manimandapam with his statue in his native District of Tiruchirappalli, at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh.

For Nadigar Thilagam Sivaji Ganesan, who shone as a peak in the Tamil film world, the State Government has set up a Manimandapam

at Adyar in Chennai at a cost of Rs. 2.80 crore, and it was declared open on 01.10.2017.

At Payyanur near Chennai, on behalf of the Film Employees Federation of South India, a studio is being set up in the name of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Idaya Deivam Amma. I sanctioned an amount of Rs. 5 crore for this. In the first phase, the State Government has sanctioned Rs. 1 crore. Soon work is to be started on the project.

To encourage producers of low budget quality films, the Government is giving a subsidy. This subsidy, which was Rs.2 lakh was increased to Rs.3 lakh on 10.09.1993 by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. The credit for increasing the subsidy again to Rs. 7 lakh on 01.10.2004 goes to Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

For 149 low budget films produced during the years 2007 to 2014, I handed over the subsidy amount of Rs. 10.43 crore at the rate of Rs. 7 lakh per film on 20.06.2018.

Apart from films on big screen, the State Government is also giving Rs. 2 lakh to the best small screen serial and Rs. 1 lakh to the second best serial.

Awards, cash prizes and mementos are to be given for the best mega serial, actors, actresses, best achievers, best life time achievers and technicians of the small screen based on the recommendations made by the selection committee to the State Government.

In addition, awards have been instituted in the name of Arignar Anna, Kalaivanar N.S.Krishnan, Thyagaraja Bhagavathar, Raja Sandow, Chinnappa Thevar, Makkal Thilagam M.G.R, Kavignar Kannadasan, Nadigar Thilagam Sivaji Ganesan and Puratchi Thalaivi, all of whom had a special impact on the Tamil film world. Each Award consists of 5 sovereigns of gold, a memento and a commendation certificate.

Workers of small and big screen industries, belonging to 39 unions are eligible to become members of the Film Workers Welfare Board. Through this Welfare Board, during the year 2018, 2,054 beneficiaries were given marriage assistance, free spectacles, educational assistance, funeral expenses and accident compensation to the tune of Rs. 62.40 lakh.

I have not mentioned all the schemes and welfare assistance here due to paucity of time. Amma's Government will continue to provide assistance to the film industry. We will not forget the sacred sphere that nurtured our two great leaders.

Similarly, you should support the schemes implemented by Amma's Government. I want Ishari K.Ganesh and Vels Films International to notch more victories in films and make films that are appreciated by all sections of the people.

Like his father Ishari Velan, Ishari Ganesh also wants to serve in politics. I am happy to know that he has been helping film industry workers affected by poverty by offering medical and educational assistance. I would like to point out that Mr.Ganesh gave opportunities to new actors and actresses in his films and brought out their talents thereby starting a new chapter in their lives.

I once again congratulate all those who worked for the success of the company.

Nandri, Vanakkam. ■

Thirty-two AEs appointed in Industries Commissionerate

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 29.11.2019, distributed appointment orders for the posts of 32 Assistant Engineers (Industries) and 2 Senior Chemists in the Commissionerate of Industries and Commerce, attached to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department. As a token, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over appointment orders to 7 persons.

The Commissionerate of Industries and Commerce is functioning as the integrated headquarters for the development of Industries in Tamil Nadu in general, and for the micro, small and medium industries in particular.

In Tamil Nadu, 32 District Industries Centres are functioning under the control of Commissionerate of Industries and Commerce. These District Industries Centres help new entrepreneurs in selecting the proper projects, preparing the project reports, and getting finance from financial institutions and the required licenses from various Government Departments

To enable such an important Department to function without any slackness, the Government has filled the vacancies of 32 Assistant Engineers (Industries) and 2 Senior Chemists selected through the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission. The appointment orders for these posts were handed over to the appointees by Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates Ranipet District fulfilling another promise made to the people

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, inaugurating the newly created Ranipet District and completed scheme works, laying the foundation for new scheme works and distributing Government welfare assistance, at a function held at Ranipet on 28.11.2019 *(English Translation)*.

My obeisance to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

First, my respects to all those participating in this pleasant function. I am extremely happy to participate in this inaugural of Ranipet District, the 36th in the State, that fulfills the long-time dream of the people of this region.

"Our political and social philosophy is to guarantee steady progress to all sections of people in our society in a harmonious way; the administrative machinery should have people's welfare as its goal and move ahead", said Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

The Government run by Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and that of ours that toes the line of Hon'ble Amma are both people welfare Governments. Hon'ble Amma's Government is framing many schemes and is implementing them speedily so that they reach the people quickly and safeguard their welfare. One of these schemes is dividing big Districts and creating new ones. During the recent election campaign for Parliament, I declared that a new District would be created with Ranipet as its headquarters.

"I am of the people; I am for the people" asserted Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. "Hon'ble Amma's Government is one that seeks out people to fulfill their needs", is the maxim Hon'ble Amma's Government that has come to you here to fulfill your demands.

In my previous Independence Day speech, I announced that a new District would be formed with Ranipet as its headquarters. That announcement has now taken concrete form, giving happiness both to you and me.

There is a famous Yoga Narasimhar temple in the Sholinghur town here. The inaugural of this District in the month of 'Karthigai' when Lord Narasimhar opens his eyes from his yoga trance, I feel, is a good augury, not only for devotees visiting the temple to have a darshan of the awakened Lord Narasimhar, but for this District itself.

Let me recall some historic events connected with this new District, at this pleasant hour.

Raja Desingu met a heroic death in Arcot Nawab's attack on the Ginjee Fort. As per the custom of those days, Raja Desingu's wife ascended the funeral pyre. History recalls that the Arcot Nawab Sadathullah Khan was affected by this event, created Ranipet on the other side of Arcot in memory of the queen's sacrfice and established the 'Navlock' area by planting nine lakh fruit-bearing trees.

During the British rule, Ranipet was used as a garrison. Many buildings there are proof of this. The British army's huge cavalry was stationed at Ranipet. During the first and second

world wars, one of its huge contingents was placed here to help the army units in Bangalore and Chennai. It also served as the resting place for army personnel commuting between Bangalore and Chennai.

History records that the rail track laid between Royapuram and Walajah in 1856 was the first railway in South India and the second one in India. Walajah, at present in this District, was the first Municipality in Tamil Nadu. The Navlock coconut farm, the biggest in the State and the famous Institute of Veterinary Preventive Medicine bring honour to Ranipet. Today, yet another honour is added to Ranipet as it becomes the 36th District of Tamil Nadu.

I feel it will be befitting to mention at this hour the administrative structure of Ranipet District. Ranipet City will be the headquarters of this District. The District encompasses an area of 2,234 sq.km; the District's population is 12,10,277; the revenue divisions are Ranipet and Arakkonam.

At the centenary function of Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., I announced that a new revenue division would be set up at Arakkonam. We have translated it, into action. There are 4 Taluks – Walajah, Arcot, Nemili and Arakkonam, 18 Firkas and 330 Revenue Villages. The District has 7 Panchayat Unions – Arakkonam, Kaveripakkam, Nemili, Arcot, Thimiri, Sholinghur and Walajah - 5 Municipalities – Arcot, Sholinghur, Arakkonam, Melvisharam and Ranipet – 9 Town Panchayats inclusive of Ammur and Kalavai and 288 Village Panchayats.

Ranipet District shines as a great foreign exchange earner. It is out and out an industrial city. With the BHEL industry that has earned the 'Maharatna' status from the Central Government and its more than 500 micro and small ancillary industries, the Parry ceramic industry of century fame, the SAME (Deutz Fahr India Ltd.,) tractor industry, SIPCOT and SIDCO industrial estates and leather and chemical industries, Ranipet District provides direct and indirect employment to more than one lakh persons.

It is said Arakkonam is only the variation of the name Aru-konam of olden days. It is the next important railway junction after Chennai.

I.N.S. Rajali, the Naval air station with the longest military runway in South Asia is in Arakkonam. Besides these, this District sports many more excellences. I wish to state here that many more honours await the District in future.

I think it will be in the order of things to mention some of the achievements made by Hon'ble Amma's Government in this pioneering industrial District.

Between the years 2011 and 2018, road works to a length of 1,106 km and 9 bridge works have been completed at a cost of Rs.568 crore; similar works to a length of 221 km and 6 bridges are being executed at an estimate of Rs.515 crore; 37 new school buildings have been constructed at an estimate of Rs.48.40 crore; new Taluk office and apartment buildings have been constructed at a cost of Rs.2.62 crore in Nemili and Ranipet areas; 14 new veterinary dispensaries have been constructed at a cost of Rs.3.78 crore in this District and they have been brought to use; water resources have been enhanced through restoration, repairing and rejuvenation of 69 lakes in this District at a cost of Rs.17.70 crore; besides, 70 lakes have been restored under the '*kudimaramathu*' scheme at a cost of Rs.12.43 crore; check dam construction is taking place at an estimate of Rs.10.43 crore; financial assistance to the tune of Rs.99.44 crore has been given to 81,362 beneficiaries under the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Assistance scheme in this newly created Ranipet District in the last 8 years; 28 schools have been upgraded as high and higher secondary schools; 4 buildings have been constructed for the Anna Government Arts college for women at Walajah at a cost of Rs.8.40 crore; construction of a building for higher classes has been completed at a cost of Rs.7.25 crore at the Arakkonam Government arts and science college; 1,392 water supply scheme have been undertaken in the Town Panchayats of Sholinghur, Kaveripakkam, Nemili, Panapakkam, Thakkolam, Thimiri, Vilapakkam, Kalavai and Ammur in this District at a cost of Rs.75.43 crore; Hon'ble Amma's Government has given bank loan link to the extent of Rs.756.50 crore to 7,557 women Self Help Groups for the economic development of women and two wheelers, with a subsidy content of Rs.4.65 crore have been distributed to 1,868 working women under the two wheelers distribution scheme.

I wish to state that Hon'ble Amma's Government will take up steps for starting industries in a greater measure in this industrialized City of Ranipet after making due surveys.

Besides creating new Districts for administrative convenience, Hon'ble Amma's Government is recording many achievements in every Department and I wish to mention a few of them made in the Education Department.

A deliberate false propaganda is being spread by the Leader of the Opposition Thiru. Stalin and Members of opposition parties in public meetings and media that no scheme

has been implemented in this regime and no benefit has accrued to people. That is why, I give you so much statistics. People should know Government's achievements. I wish to mention a few of the schemes implemented during Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's days and by Amma's Government after her demise.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has released new syllabi up to class 12, realizing that education should not be merely academic but kindle thinking capacity in students. It has established a record by allotting Rs.28,957.62 crore to the Department of School Education in this financial year, the highest so far. Among all Departments, it is the Education Department that has got the highest allotment. Educational development will usher in all other developments automatically.

I wish to proudly state here that the percentage of non-school going children and drop outs has come down greatly on account of the many schemes implemented by Hon'ble Amma's Government in the education sector.

"My aim is to boost college enrollment to more than 50 per cent," said Hon'ble Amma. In her terms of holding the office of Chief Minister, she started 65 new Government Arts and Science Colleges. This Government

that follows in Hon'ble Amma's footsteps started 12 Government Arts and Science Colleges. This has increased, I am proud to state, the percentage of student enrollment in higher education to 49, pushing Tamil Nadu into the premier status in the country in this regard. When Hon'ble Amma assumed office in 2011, the enrollment in higher education was about 34 per cent and now, the State has come first in the country in the number of students taking to higher education due to the steps taken by Amma and after her, the continuous steps taken by Amma's Government.

To encourage rural youth and ensure their health, Amma's Government has introduced an excellent scheme – Amma Youth Sports Scheme - in 12,524 Panchayats and 528 Town Panchayats; in the current year Rs.76.23 crore has been allotted for this scheme. The scheme aims at setting up volleyball and kabaddi courts and cricket and football grounds, procurement of sports tools, open air gyms and organizing competitions. Due to the achievements of Hon'ble Amma's Government, not only in education but also in all other Departments, Tamil Nadu shines as one of the States in the forefront in India.

Our Government has been implementing many schemes for the welfare of Muslims. Though the Central Government had stopped the subsidy for Muslims for the Haj pilgrimage, Amma had continued it for them in Tamil Nadu which is a model for communal harmony for the entire country. This Government is continuing this measure, allotting Rs. 6 crore every year. Amma's Government has also increased the administrative subsidy for the Haj committee from Rs.30 lakh to Rs.50 lakh. For more than 3,000 mosques in the State, 5,145 metric tonnes of rice have been issued for preparation and distribution of porridge (Nonbu Kanji). The Government has been donating sandal billets every year for the 'Santhana Koodu' festival in Nagore Dargah. A honorarium of Rs.20,000 is distributed for District Kazis; monthly pension for Ulemas has been increased to Rs.1,500. A consolidated fund of Rs.3 crore has been created towards undertaking repairs and renovation works in mosques, dargahs and Wakf institutions. For the economic development of minorities, Rs.215.22 crore has been disbursed as education loan, personal loan and petty loans through the Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation in the period 2011 to 2018.

On behalf of Hon'ble Amma's Government that is implementing many such schemes, I have declared open in this event, 171 works completed by the Department of Rural Development at a cost of Rs.62.14 crore, inclusive of 152 works valued at Rs.34.80 crore; laid the foundation stone for 37 works costing Rs.14.02 crore inclusive of 35 works valued at Rs.13 crore; and distributed welfare assistance valued at Rs.89.73 crore to 8,688 beneficiaries at one stroke.

Some selfish elements, that pretend to toil for the masses are panic stricken at the achievements of Hon'ble Amma's Government. Hiding the Government's achievements, they

are trying to convince the people through false rhetoric that they are the true leaders. I wish to recall the song: "Naaloru Medai – Pozhudhoru nadippu, Avan Paer Manithanalla; Naavil ondru, ninaivil ondru, adhan paer ullamalla" ('He who changes colour on every podium is not a man; dichotomy between thought and speech does not make a good heart'). Certainly, one day people will come to know the true colours of those who are putting up an act of readiness to do good to them. On that day, they will teach a lesson to such people. The Assembly by-election results reveal this to us.

The DMK and the Congress held the Vikravandi and Nanguneri Assembly constituencies respectively. In the Parliament election, the DMK headed alliance captured 38 seats in Tamil Nadu and one in Puducherry by making false and un-implementable promises. The suspended election at the Vellore Constituency was held later by the Central Election Commission. At that time, the Leader of the Opposition Thiru. Stalin made an arrogant statement that they would win Vellore on a greater margin than the margin of lakhs of votes they obtained in the 39 constituencies. But the erstwhile united Vellore District people taught a lesson to them in the Vellore Parliament election, as they had concluded that they had been cheated by false promises and that the DMK alliance could not implement any scheme.

In the Vellore Parliament election, held just 70 days after the general election, the AIADMK polled more votes than the DMK in 3 of the 6 Assembly constituencies of that Parliamentary constituency while the DMK could score more votes in the remaining 3 Assembly constituencies. To mention a particular instance, the DMK candidate won the Gudiyatham assembly by-election, held along with the general parliament election by a margin of about 28,000 votes but in the Vellore Parliament election, the AIADMK got 12,000 more votes in that Assembly constituency than the DMK. In just 70 days, a change of heart had taken place in the people and they voted for AIADMK because we spoke the truth; they punished the DMK severely for their lies.

In 2016, during the days of Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the DMK won the Anaicut constituency. In the Vellore Parliament election, the 'Two Leaves' (AIADMK), polled 9,020 more votes than the DMK in that Assembly constituency, a constituent of the Vellore parliament constituency. People had decided on that very day that the DMK won the General Parliament Election by cheating them through its falsehood and that of the leaders of its alliance parties and by promising schemes that could not be implemented. The DMK and the Congress contested the Vikravandi and Nanguneri Assembly constituencies respectively in the by-election held for them subsequently. The AIADMK candidate won the Vikravandi constituency by a margin of 45,000 votes; in the Nanguneri, though AIADMK's alliance was weak the AIADMK candidate won by a margin of 34,000 votes on account of the alliance. In the northern and southern Districts, we won. In the 2021 Assembly elections also,

AIADMK and its partners will score a big victory.

Wherever he visits, Thiru. Stalin is saying that local bodies' election will not be held. The State Election Commission has clearly stated even while the Supreme Court is hearing the case (in regard to the election), that all works connected with conducting the local bodies election have been started. An all- party meeting is being held in Chennai today in connection with this. But the DMK leader Thiru. Stalin and his alliance parties have been deliberately spreading a wrong and false news in a planned manner. Their statement is not true. They are confusing the people. Certainly, we understand from newspapers that the State Election Commission is in a position to announce Local Bodies election. We hope the State Election Commission will certainly conduct local bodies election. The State Election Commission is an autonomous body and is conducting the local bodies election as per the advice of the Court. But Stalin wants to go to Court deliberately; wants to stop the election through back-door means. In 2016 also, he did the same. During Hon'ble Amma's days, election works had started but the DMK put a spoke in the wheel of the conduct of the election by going to Court on the ground that reservation of seats was not proper. But while speaking in public, he says the AIADMK is afraid of facing the election. There is no record of AIADMK skulking away from any election at any time. The only party that was ready to face any election, during the days of Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, was the AIADMK. We have proved this on several occasions. It is the leader of the opposition who is afraid of facing elections. He tries to stop the election by egging on others to go to Court and by some how creating confusion.

He also says that it is the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister who have changed the conduct of direct election into an indirect one. It was the DMK that brought direct election in 1996 for the sake of Thiru. Stalin. Again, in 2006 when Thiru. Stalin was Local Administration Minister, an announcement was made that direct election would be conducted as indirect election and the local bodies election was held accordingly. It is right if they bring the change and it is wrong if AIADMK does it –in what way is this right? It is the elected Councillors who elect the Chairpersons of Town Panchayats and Municipalities and the Mayors. Why are you afraid? What happened to your bravado that you will face the election, whatever be its form. The AIADMK is ready to face the election whenever the State Election Commission holds it. As for Amma's Government, it is our duty to serve the people.

The new Ranipet District, inaugurated today, is already an industrialized District, capable of creating jobs for lakhs of persons. Speaking of industrialization, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government has attracted industrial investment to the tune of Rs.3,00,431 crore by conducting an Industrial Investors Meet at Chennai in January 2019 and signing 304

Memoranda of Understanding. When these investments materialize, about 10 lakh persons will get jobs. On the coming 30th also, we are to sign 10 MoUs and lay foundation stone for 3 projects. But the leader of the opposition and the leaders of his alliance parties deliberately keep raising the question about how many industries we have attracted by holding the Investors Meet. We explicitly say that industrial investors are favouring Tamil Nadu today. Our Government is taking appropriate steps to attract very big industries to Tamil Nadu. The information we are giving you is about these achievements. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma held a successful industrial investors meet. In continuation, Amma's Government that follows the footsteps of Amma conducted an industrial investors meet and succeeded. Through these events, job opportunities will be created for the educated youth; Tamil Nadu's economy will develop. We will prove that Amma's Government is a Government that takes all measures to make Tamil Nadu the premier industrialized State in India.

We are restoring lakes, tanks and ponds throughout Tamil Nadu through the *'kudimaramathu'* scheme. They are maintained through the panchayat unions on an allotment of Rs.1,250 crore. Likewise, the lakes under the PWD are de-silted. For the *'kudimaramathu'* scheme, Rs.100 crore was allotted in 2016-2017 and about Rs.328 crore in 2017-2018. For 2018-2019, Rs. 500 crore was allotted and works were under way. The only Government that took steps to dredge all lakes and tanks in the State is Amma's Government. We are implementing this scheme entirely with farmers' participation. For many years, de-silting had not taken place in Tamil Nadu. This resulted in rain water draining into the sea. We are implementing this *'kudimaramathu'* scheme, using farmers to conserve the rain water wholly. The scheme is on a victorious march. Farmers and those in the know of things welcome the scheme. By storing the monsoon rain water, the ground water level rises and water is available during the periods of drought both for agriculture and drinking purposes.

Likewise, for the construction of check dams across Odai and rivers, Rs.1,000 crore has been allotted; in the last two years, check dams have been constructed at a cost of Rs.600 crore. The Government is ready to construct check dams wherever people desire. To prevent the wastage of even a drop of water, I wish to point out, our Government has framed a water management scheme, appointed 2 retired Chief Engineers and 3 Superintending Engineers for surveying the places throughout the State where water went waste. The report was submitted to Government and on its basis construction of check dams is taking place.

The only Government that provided relief to drought-hit farmers is Amma's Government. Again, it is the only Government that got Rs.7,000 crore compensation in two years to farmers affected by crop loss/drought through the crop insurance scheme. We have the honour that Tamil Nadu is the first State to get compensation to farmers through the crop insurance scheme.

On our request presented to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Central Government sanctioned 6 medical colleges to us in one go; we made a request to the Prime Minister for 3 more Government medical colleges and that too was acceded yesterday. Getting 9 new Government medical colleges in a year is an historic achievement and Amma's Government has done it.

Thiru. Stalin says we have become slaves to the Central Government and that we are playing second fiddle to that Government. The DMK was in the Union Government when the Congress-led coalition captured power at the Centre. At that period, how many medical colleges could you get sanctioned for Tamil Nadu? How many schemes did you bring? How much funds could you get for them? Nothing. Only members of his family became prominent; occupied powerful posts. But the AIADMK is not like that. Realizing well the problems of Tamil Nadu people, we get what we could from the Central Government and are toiling round-the-clock to turn Tamil Nadu into a prosperous State. Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and other Hon'ble Ministers stand by us for that.

By getting 9 medical colleges in one stroke, Hon'ble Amma's Government has created a condition where 1,350 more students can take to medical education. So, by having a good rapport with the Centre, needed schemes for Tamil Nadu people can be obtained. You were in the Central Government with the Bharatiya Janata Party. At that time, you described BJP as a good party and showered praise on it. To be precise, when Murasoli Maran was hospitalized for a year and the BJP kept him in the ministry as a Minister without portfolio, you praised the BJP as the best party. But today, what is it?

Only now, in the Parliament election, we are in BJP's alliance. Our partnership is just 5 months old. In these 5 months, we have got so many schemes. We got AIIMS hospital for Madurai; got sanction for 9 new Government Medical Colleges; we have asked for funds for the Chennai Metro Rail Project; it is also under Centre's consideration. The Union Government is giving sanction for many new roads. Basically, we wish to do good to the people of Tamil Nadu through a friendly approach to the Central Government. You were in the Central Ministry, both with the Congress and the BJP. The chameleon changes its colour often. But even the chameleon takes some time to change colour. But the DMK is a party that changes its colour in quick succession without any principle. What qualification do you have to talk? As far as we are concerned, the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu is important to us. We will fight, argue and get funds for the good of the Tamil Nadu people and we will carry out schemes. Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma have shown us the way. I wish to state that we are following that path and are functioning with dedication to the people.

The excellent work put in by the Ministers seated on this dais has made Tamil Nadu as the only State to bag higher number of awards

Department-wise, conferring, thereby, an honour on the AIADMK Government. We got national awards in Departments like electricity, transport, social welfare, local bodies administration and education; in agriculture we got the Krishi Karman award continuously. I wish to state that excellent administration is behind this achievement of getting so many awards.

Thiru. Durai Murugan, who had a long stint as a Minister asked what use was there in dividing Districts and gave the reply: nothing. If it is so, the division of many Districts effected by the late DMK President when he was Chief Minister, was that all needless? If you do it, it is right; if we do it, it is wrong? Creation of new Districts helps people access the Collectorates easily and get relief from their problems.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has issued orders to take steps to find immediate solutions through the District Collector to the petitions received from people under the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal scheme. So far, about 9,72,216 petitions have been received from all over Tamil Nadu. Problems raised in many of the petitions have been resolved. This shows that Hon'ble Amma's Government is the only Government that approaches the people and resolves their problems.

Old-age pension will be issued to 5 lakh senior citizens across Tamil Nadu; the insurance cover for treatment under the medical insurance scheme has been enhanced by Hon'ble Amma's Government from Rs.2 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh.

Wishing the newly created Ranipet District excellence and greater industrialization, I wish to make some announcements here.

A check dam will be constructed across Palar near Vegamangalam, Nemili Taluk at a cost of Rs.30 crore to benefit the surrounding Villages of Vegamangalam, Mamandur, Panamugai and Ariyur. Survey works will be shortly undertaken for construction of a check dam across Kallar near Arigilpadi Village, Arakkonam Taluk, another one across Ponnai river near Palleri, Walajah Taluk, and a ground-level retaining wall across Palar near Poottuthakku Village, Walajah Taluk.

A detailed project report will be prepared for a by-pass road to Sholinghur city in deference to the request of the Legislative Assembly Member. The Primary Health Centre at Melvisharam will be upgraded at a cost of Rs.1.60 crore. Infrastructure development will be taken up in the SIPCOT Section – 3 extension area, Walajah Taluk at a cost of Rs.23 crore. An upgraded bus stand will be setup in Ranipet under the Public-Private Participation mode.

Stating that Hon'ble Amma's Government will extend its support to take this District to great heights and thanking the Hon'ble Ministers of this District responsible for the creation of this District, their ministerial colleagues and supporters, high officials, District staff and all the good hearts who graced the function, I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

41 appointed on compassionate grounds

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat on 19.11.2019, as a token of handing over appointment orders to the legal heirs of 41 employees of the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation who died in harness, gave away the orders to 7 persons. The appointments on compassionate grounds were for jobs like Ledger clerk, Office Assistant, Weighing man, Guard and Sweeper, depending on their qualifications.

99th Birth Anniversary of Kavignar Suratha

News in Picture

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P.Benjamin and Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture and Archaeology Thiru. K.Pandiarajan, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation, Tmt. B.Valarmathi, Secretary, Department of Tamil Development and Information, Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., and Director of Information and Public Relations Dr. P. Sankar I.A.S., honoured Kavignar Suratha on the occasion of his 99th birth anniversary by offering floral tribute to the poet's portrait kept near his statue at Ashok Nagar in Chennai on 23.11.2019.

'Tamil Nadu surges ahead with Amma's great vision'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** during the "Investment and Skill Development Conclave" held on 30.11.2019 *(English Translation)*.

Thiru.M.C.Sampath, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Dr.Nilofer Kafeel, Hon'ble Minister for Labour, Thiru.K.Pandiarajan, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology, Chief Secretary Thiru. K.Shanmugham I.A.S., Thiru.Satheesh Reddy, Chairman, DRDO, Captains of Industry, Members of Diplomatic Community, Officers of Government of Tamil Nadu, Esteemed Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Press and Media,

At the outset I welcome you all to this meeting.

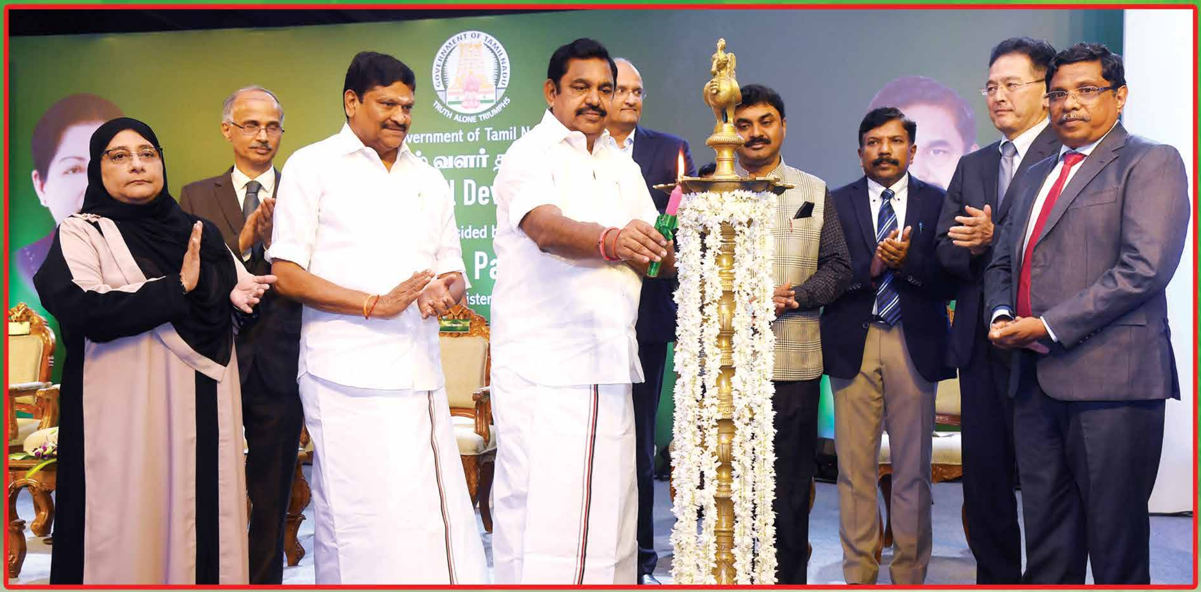
Tamil Nadu is one of India's most industrialized States and its economy is the second largest in India.

My Hon'ble leader Dr.Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had a vision to make Tamil Nadu a world leader in manufacturing. In line with that vision the first ever Global Investors Meet was held in 2015, which was a resounding success.

Following in the footsteps of Amma, my Government conducted the second edition of the Global Investors Meet in January this year, which saw investment commitments of over Rs.3 lakh crore.

My Government has ensured committed support for all the MoU projects. As a result, till date, 53 GIM 2019 MoU projects have commenced commercial production and 219 projects are under various stages of Implementation.

My Government has been working continuously to attract new investments.



I am happy to inform that after the successful completion of Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet 2019, in the past 10 months alone, Tamil Nadu has attracted 63 new MoU projects with an investment of Rs.19,000 crore and creation of 83,800 new jobs. The investments include those from Japan, Germany, South Korea, the USA, and UAE.

Saint Tiruvalluvar said,

"Iyattralum Eettalum Kaathalum Kaatha

Vaguthalum Vallathu Arasu".

(A worthy ruler is one who gains revenue, stores it, safeguards it and then spends it on people's welfare). In this manner, the Tamil Nadu Government has been implementing many innovative schemes for the industrial development of the State.

For attracting Industries to the State, the Tamil Nadu Government is taking manifold steps including Single window clearance scheme through Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act, Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister to expedite the process, a cell in CM's Office for simplifying the process, solving water-related issues not only through *Kudimaramathu* and water harvesting schemes but also by setting up the country's biggest sewerage treament plants, desalination plants, new food parks, Security and Aerospace Parks, E-vehicle Park, Separate Policy to encourage Start Up industries, Informaton Technology Policy, Aerospace and Defence Policy and E-Vehicle Policy.

The highly skilled manpower available in the State as well as the peaceful law and order situation make Tamil Nadu the preferred destination for investment.

Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation, in partnership with Industry, is setting up Apex Skill Development Centres for imparting skill training to the youth. This will further improve the State's position as the skill capital of India.

The knowledge partnership with DRDO and IIT, Madras, for the Defence Industrial Corridor will be very helpful in making Tamil Nadu an Aerospace and Defence manufacturing hub.

Today, I would like to announce a new initiative to help investors in the State. The Industries Department and TNSDC will identify the skill sets needed by investors. TNSDC will train the youth according to the specific needs of investors. The Companies will have a say in the design of the programme and also in training. They can also select the suitable candidates from among those skilled under this programme.

I am happy to announce the new policy here to be jointly implemented by the Tamil Nadu Government and TNSDC for the benefit of new entrepreneurs. The skill development will be imparted by the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corportion with the assistance of the Tamil Nadu Government for the specific requirement of industries in the State. The industries concerned can themselves design the syllabus for the programme to suit their requirements. The industries can select the candidates trained.

By such schemes, Tamil Nadu continues to be in the forefront in various fronts. The country's premier magazine, India Today has selected Tamil Nadu as the premier State in overall development. Frost and Sullivan in its report placed Tamil Nadu in the second position in overall management and the first in the country in attracting new industries.

For the further development of Industries, to get the advice of the Tamils living abroad and to provide red carpet reception to new entrepreneurs, the Tamil Nadu Government announced the 'Yaadhum Oorey Yaavarum Kelir' Scheme in the last Assembly session . As a follow up measure, I myself toured various countries and met industrialists. I began this new relationship bridge from the United States of America. Already DP World and M-auto with which MoUs were signed have started their operations. Three more schemes are to start today.

We are renewing all out efforts to increase exports from Tamil Nadu by constituting a high-level committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary.

As Thiruvalluvar said,

'*Ulluvathellaam Uyarvullal Matradhu*
Thallinum Thallamai Neerthu'

('Let all your goals be high. Hindrances may come, but they cannot stop you').

Following industrial development, the Government has been taking various initiatives to create new job opportunities.'

In this year's Global Investors' Meet, a MoU was signed with a Finland firm Salcomp for an investment of Rs. 500 crore for creating 5,600 new job opportunites. Salcomp has taken initiative to reopen the Nokia plant which was closed due to industrial dispute.

Apart from this Foxconn has started a digital unit at a cost of Rs. 2,500 crore, which will create employment opportunites for 20,000 people at the Nokia Special Economic Zone.

Due to the efforts of the Tamil Nadu Government, an environment has been created where many industrial units in the State, which were closed due various reasons in the past, are being reopened.

I want to assure you that my Government is committed to fulfilling Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's vision of making Tamil Nadu the best global destination for investment and the manufacturing hub of the world.

Nandri! Vanakkam! ■

510 LIG flats built by TNHB opened in Mahakavi Bharathi Nagar, Chennai

510 குறைந்த வருவாய் பிரிவு குடியிருப்புகள் - மகாகவி பாரதி நகர் - சென்னை

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 09.12.2019, declared open through video conferencing, 510 Low Income Group (LIG) multi-storied residential flats, at Mahakavi Bharathi Nagar in Chennai. The flats were constructed at a cost of Rs.129.50 crore by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board which comes under the Housing and Urban Development Department.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also declared open on the occasion, multi-storied tenements at J.J.Nagar East, Puliyur, Mandavelipakkam, both in Chennai, and an Amma Kalayana mandapam at Anna Nagar - Madurai, all built at a cost of Rs. 33.14 crore, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on 15.09.2015 announced under Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rule 110 that 2,800 housing units would be constructed in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Cuddalore, Krishnagiri, Salem, Madurai and Tiruchirappalli by the Tamil Nadu Housing Board to meet the housing requirements of all sections of people.

As per the announcement, Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami declared open

510 multi-storied residential flats on stilt floor plus 15 floors, built on 2.46 acres under the Mahakavi Bharathi Nagar Self-Financing Scheme. The multi-storied residential flats were constructed at a cost of Rs. 129.50 crore. The flats in the tenements are either 688 sq.ft or 721 sq.ft of built in area with 2 bedrooms, including one attached bathroom, hall, kitchen, bathroom, drinking water, sewerage and electrical facilities. In addition, deep bore wells for drinking water, ground-level water tank, electric motor room, rain water harvesting facility and street lights have been provided.

Also, in J.J.Nagar East Scheme, Mogappair, 40 High Income Group Flats on beam floor plus 4 floors, built at a cost of Rs. 12.70 crore, 48 Middle Income Group Flats, on stilt floor plus 4 floors, at Puliyur scheme, Chennai, constructed at a cost of Rs.11.97 crore, 12 High Income Group built on stilt floor plus 4 floors, Mandavelipakkam scheme in Chennai built at cost of Rs.2.96 crore, and Amma Kalyana Mandapam with stilt floor and 3 floors in Sathamangalam village in Madurai North Division, built at a cost of Rs.5.51 crore.

Totally 610 tenements and the Amma Kalyanamandapam, all constructed at a total cost of Rs.162.64 crore, were declared open by Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami from the Secretariat through video conferencing.

136th birth anniversary of Mahakavi Bharathiyar

In connection with the 136th birth anniversary of Mahakavi Bharathiyar, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel, Administrative Reforms, Thiru. D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Information and Public Relations, Thiru. Kadambur Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology Thiru. K.Pandiarajan, Chairperson of the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Service, Tmt.B.Valarmathi, Thiru. R.Nataraj MLA, Secretary, Tamil Development and Information Department, Thiru. Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., and Director of Information and Public Relations Dr. P.Sankar I.A.S. paid floral tribute to a portrait of Mahakavi Bharathiyar kept near his statue on the Marina at Chennai, on 11.12.2019.

MoU signed for converting petrol autos into electric autos at the investors meet in Dubai

Hon'ble Chief Minister flags off electric autos for public use

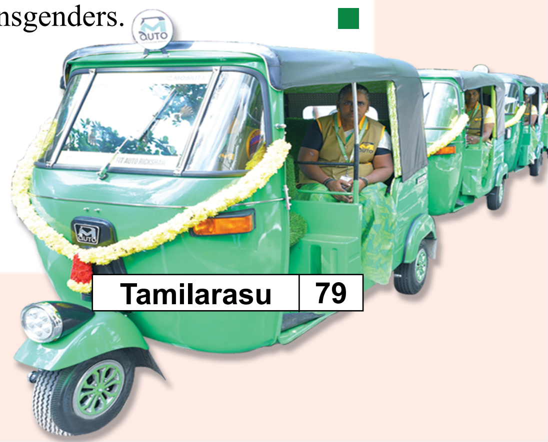
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 29.11.2019, launched 110 M-Electric Autos for public use and as a token flagged off 4 M-Electric Autos. These autos have been brought out by the Mauto Electric Mobility company by converting petrol autos into electric autos which are environment friendly and pollution free.

To attract maximum investments from Tamils living abroad and from other investors, the Hon'ble Chief Minister led a team of Hon'ble Ministers and senior I.A.S. officers on a tour of England, the United States and Dubai from 28.08.2019 to 10.09.2019. The team was able to attract investments to the tune of Rs.8,835 crore opening employment opportunities to 35,520 people by signing MoUs with 41 concerns.

At the end of the tour, at the investors meet held in Dubai with Business Leaders Forum and Indian Vice Consulate General of India General, an MoU was signed with the KMC Group in Dubai and M-auto Electric Mobility Private Ltd., for an investment of Rs.100 crore to convert petrol autos into environment friendly electric autos providing employment opportunities to 5,000 people.

In the first phase, 100 petrol autos were converted into environment friendly and pollution free electric autos by M-auto Electric Mobility and handed over to the Hon'ble Chief Minister who flagged off 4 M-autos as a token.

These M-Autos have been designed to run up to 100 kms when they are fully charged. The M-Autos have facilities such as CCTV camera, Panic button and TAP. These autos can be booked through the Mobile App M-auto Pride. It is significant that the drivers of the M-autos are either women or transgenders. ■



Mahakavi Subramaniya Bharathi's

The Wind

The birth anniversary of the poet falls on December 11

Does life throb in the tremulous leaf ?
Yes.
In the roaring sea......is all that water soaked with life ?
Yes.
Stone dropped from roof, wings its way to ground.
This pulse of movement is
Spurred by its innate life.
Rustle of the brook is life manifest.
Silent air turns into a howling wind,
A stirring of its life.
A bull pulling the cart -
Breathes life into the wheels,
A cart becomes alive.
The soaring kite – it is alive.
A roaring steam train has life, too
A big life.
All machines are propelled by life.
The earth spins and spins.
A reservoir of life is our
Mother Earth.
So, all things on her sacred body
Are vibrant

The universe is in a whirl.
The moon whirls, the sun too.
Billions and billions of miles away,
Even beyond
Further beyond
Into an abyss
Stars and planets in a constraint spin.

So, this world bustles with life.
This life we have named the Wind.
And, morn noon and eve
We sing its glory
In joyous celebration.

-Translated by Dr.K.S Subramaniyan
from the poem 'Kaatru' - Tamil Poetry Today

News in Pictures

In connection with the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the National Advisory Committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble President of India, **Thiru. Ramnath Govind** in New Delhi on 19.12.2019. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, **Thiru.Narendra Modi** and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** participated.

Hon'ble Chief Minister **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** congratulated the Directorate of Industries and Commerce for getting ISO 9001-2015 Certificate for introducing the single window scheme for the micro, small and medium industries to register with the industrial co-operative societies and get subsidy and other benefits easily. The Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru. P.Benjamin showed the ISO certificate to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

News in Pictures

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** donating for Flag Day to Chennai District Collector Tmt. R.Vijayalakshmi I.A.S., at the Chief Minister's Camp Office on 07.12.2019.

The Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Special Implementation, Thiru. S.P.Velumani, showed Hon'ble Chief Minister **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, 13 national awards won by the rural industries department of the Tamil Nadu Government for its best performance, including 4 National Awards won for successfully implementing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.